



**MAGNET SCHOOL PROCEDURES  
AND APPLICATION  
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy**



**MAGNET SCHOOL APPLICATION  
2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Conecuh County Board of Education**

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Board Approved: April 27, 2017

# Magnet School Program and Qualifications

## ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS

Any student living in Conecuh County may apply for admission to Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy (SPMA).

### Grades 6 – 8 Eligibility Qualifications

Admission for applicants entering 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grades is based on the following:

1. Applicants must have an earned core subject average of at least 80% for the year-to-date (YTD average in English/Language Arts, Reading, Math, and Science. (For Example: English/Language Arts + Reading + Math + Science /4 = Average) Example: (95 + 90 + 80 + 85= 350 divided by 4 = 87.5 Average)
2. Conduct: During the current school year, students -in 5th-7th Grades must have a minimum YTD average of a B in conduct. Students must have no more than two Class II offenses and no Class III offenses, during the current year. Class offenses are documented referrals and defined in the 2016-17 Conecuh County Schools' Code of Conduct. (Out of System Students -MUST attach their 1st semester report card to the magnet school application form  
**Students who do not meet the conduct qualification may still apply. If accepted, they may be placed on conditional enrollment.**
3. ACT Aspire is not an eligibility component. However, ACT Aspire scores may be used as a factor for those qualifying based on their core subject average if there are more eligible applicants than available slots.
4. **If accepted, student must maintain this behavior requirement at their current school for the remainder of the academic year to remain eligible to attend SPMA.**

### Sibling Preference Information: 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Sibling Preference only applies during the initial selection period - April, 2018

1. Siblings of current students enrolled in a SPMA will receive placement preference at the magnet school provided (a) they make application during the initial application period, (b) they meet the grades and conduct requirements, (c) there is sufficient space to accommodate them, and (d) they have not previously been accepted to the school and declined placement.

### Magnet School Employees 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

Children of SPMA employees will receive placement preference to the magnet school where parent is employed, provided (a) they make application during the initial application period, (b) they meet the grades and conduct requirements, (c) there is sufficient space to accommodate them, and (d) they have not previously been accepted to the school and declined the placement.

### Out of System Students

Children living outside Conecuh County at the time of application, excluding employees' children, may apply, but must reside within Conecuh County by the first day of school or within two weeks of acceptance, whichever occurs last. An annual waiver may be granted by the Superintendent.

With the exception of employees' children and children granted a waiver by the Superintendent due to special circumstances, all students enrolled SPMA must live within Conecuh County. Out of System Students who live outside Conecuh County may apply to the magnet school. However, children residing in Conecuh County at the time of application will receive placement preference for the magnet school.

### **Exceptional Education Students**

Exceptional education students may be admitted if the IEP Committee determines that a magnet school is the Least Restrictive Environment for the student. The IEP Committee and a representative from the magnet school, either the principal or his/her designee, must be present at all IEP meetings to consider placement of exceptional education students at Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy.

After an IEP meeting is held, and it is determined that the magnet school best meets the selected exceptional education student's needs, a registration packet will be offered to the student.

Exceptional education students must adhere to all registration requirements as described in the "Registration" section.

Students attending SPMA will be reassigned to their home-base school before a referral to exceptional student services is made.

### **English as a Second Language**

A matrix will be used as the entrance requirement for students whose primary language is not English.

### **Magnet School Transportation**

Parents should be aware that magnet school students are not guaranteed "direct home to school" transportation and that many will be transported via a "shuttle bus system" from another school's campus.

### **Application Process**

May 3 through May 26, 2017 will be the initial application period for all grades, 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>. This will allow time for test scheduling and test administration. If you are interested in your child being considered for Magnet School Selection, please complete the enclosed application and return it to the Board of Education Office at 1455 Ted Bates Road, Evergreen, Alabama 36401, before 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017. Applications received after this date will not be processed until after the initial selection has been completed.

### **Selection Process**

Seats will be offered at every grade level as space permits. In the event there are more applicants than available seats, students will either remain on the waiting list in rank order or a lottery selection will be conducted. Applicants who are not selected due to limited space may be assigned later, if additional seats become available.

### **Registration Process**

Upon selection to a SPMA, parents will receive a letter of information. Therefore, it is important that all address data on your child's application is correct and legible.

A commitment contract, behavior contract and achievement contract must be agreed upon and signed by the student and parents. The commitment contract requires the parent(s) and the student to actively support the magnet schools program, its beliefs and ideals.

The signed commitment contract is also an agreement that parents are expected to provide a minimum of 10 service hours to the school and will attend all requested parent conferences.

After acceptance, all registration materials must be received at the school's office by the registration deadline as indicated in the student's acceptance letter. Therefore, please make sure all addresses and phone numbers entered on the application are current and legible. A parent/guardian has a maximum of two weeks from the postmarked date on the envelope of the student's acceptance letter to accept magnet school placement. If a parent/guardian does not respond to the school during the designated time period, the student's file is marked "**NO RESPONSE**" and the vacancy is offered to another student. It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to meet all deadlines.

**If a parent voluntarily withdraws a student from SPMA, he/she shall be ineligible to return to the SPMA during the same year.**



Conecuh County Board of Education  
2017-2018  
Southside Preparatory Magnet Application

Applications must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Conecuh County Board of Education, Attn: Magnet School, 1455 Ted Bates Road, Evergreen, AL 36401. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to ensure that the application is complete and submitted before the deadline of May 26, 2017 at 4:30 pm. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Complete directions for completing this packet are located on the final page of this application. Read and answer carefully. Read the parent's declaration at the bottom of this form before signing. **Failure to properly complete this form could result in your child not being accepted to Southside Preparatory Magnet School (SPMA).**

**Student Information:** Please **PRINT** or **TYPE** the following information.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First M.I. M/F Month Day Year

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt#: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box #(if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Current School **2016-2017:** \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

Does the student have an IEP (Individual Education Plan) on file with the Exceptional Student Services Department? Yes or No  
(Circle One)

If other than English, what was the first language your child learned? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the student receive ESL (English As A Second Language) Services? Yes or No (Circle One)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Primary Phone: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ Other: ( \_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_

**Please Print**

Sibling Information: Sibling preference may be granted during the initial magnet school selection period if the following conditions are met: (1) complete applications are received from each sibling; (2) all siblings are identified on all applications; (3) all applications are submitted together; (4) all siblings wish to attend the same magnet school; and (5) all siblings otherwise qualify for acceptance.

List siblings applying to attend the same magnet school:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Applying for Grade: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Applying for Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

If this applicant has a sibling currently attending the same magnet school, enter this information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

If either of the applicant's parents (or guardian) is currently a full-time employee of the Conecuh County Schools, enter this information:

Employee \_\_\_\_\_ School/Dept: \_\_\_\_\_

**Out of System Student's Required Information – MUST be completed with attachments or application will be returned.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ This student has previously taken a Nationally Recognized Norm-Referenced Test (ex. F-CAT, CAT, SAT-9, SAT-10, ACT Aspire) and a copy of the official results is attached.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The student needs to take the CCS Alternative Test. (IF NO PREVIOUS TEST SCORES)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A copy of student's last report card is attached. (**REQUIRED** FOR ALL OUT-OF-SYSTEM STUDENTS)

By signing this Application/Commitment Contract, I understand that as the parent/guardian of the above student, I am expected to provide a minimum of 10 service hours (per family) to the school and that I must attend all requested parent conferences. I further understand that in order to remain enrolled in the magnet school, my child must meet all requirements as outlined in the SPMA Program and Qualifications Guidelines. I will also support the school's philosophy, dress code and the School Code of Conduct. I understand that falsifying my child's address or school zone will lead to my child being declared ineligible for magnet school enrollment.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Applications must be hand-delivered or mailed to the Conecuh County Schools Central Office, Attn: Magnet Schools, 1455 Ted**

*Bates Road, Evergreen, AL 36401 NO Later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 26, 2017. Late Applications **WILL NOT** be processed until after the initial selection is complete. If mailing this application, it is your responsibility to mail it early enough for it to arrive on or before May 26, 2017.*

### **Instructions for Completing the Magnet School Application**

**Name:** Enter the student's legal name (Last, First, Middle Initial).

**Gender (G):** Choose M = Male/F= Female

**Date of Birth:** Enter student's date of birth using numbers. Avoid using 2016 as the year.

**Address:** Enter the physical street address where the student lives now. Do not enter an address where the student may live in the future. This is the address notification information will be mailed to.

**Mailing Address:** Make an entry here only if you receive mail at a P.O. Box.

**Current School 2016-17:** Enter name of school currently attending during the 2016-17 school year. Enter the school address information, only if the school is not in Conecuh County

**Grade Applying for:** Select appropriate grade level applying for the 2017-18 school year.

**Does the student currently have an IEP (Individual Education Plan) on file with the Exceptional Student Services Department?** We need to know if the student is currently served where he/she is now attending school under the provision of an IEP. If you child does not receive Special Education services, you should answer "no".

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s):** Enter the person(s) that the student lives with and has legal custody of the student. PLEASE PRINT.

**Primary Phone/Other:** Enter the phone numbers where the person(s) listed can be reached during the day. There must be a phone number listed in order to contact parent/guardian. If one is not listed, the application will be returned.

**Sibling Information:** Enter the name and grade being applied for of any and all children who are siblings of this student and applying for the SAME magnet school, living at the SAME address.

**Parent/guardian an employer:** Read Information in this booklet.

Only ONE magnet school application will be considered for each student. Subsequent applications for a student will void earlier ones. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure this application is completed and all timelines are met. Failure to be aware of deadlines and required responses is no excuse. There will be NO EXCEPTIONS. Incomplete applications will be returned to sender/applicant's parent/guardian.

## Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy

**Goal:** Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy is designed to address the needs of middle school students through hands-on learning activities aimed at developing critical thinking skills and solving real world problems related to all disciplines.

**Curriculum:** The program offers extensive academic learning opportunities with emphasis in the STEAM Curriculum. STEAM is an educational program developed to prepare primary and secondary students for college and graduate study in the fields of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM). In addition to subject-specific learning, STEAM aims to foster inquiring minds, logical reasoning, and collaboration skills.

**Grades served:** Sixth through eighth grade.

- Distinctive Program Features
- Infusion of technology throughout the curriculum
- Networked, multi-media resource/research center with technology labs
- Student –produced publications/projects and media productions
- Student participation in high interest clubs, activities and competitions
- A rigorous and challenging academic environment with grade-level and advisory groups
- Athletic program
- Career Technology Program with Technology Students Association
- High-level questioning and critical thinking activities
- A full piano program
- Robotics team, science, team and math team
- Future Business Leaders of America and National Junior Honor Society
- Field trip opportunities

### **Eligibility Criteria:** Grades 6 – 8 Eligibility Qualifications

Admission for applicants entering 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> Grades is based on the following:

1. Applicants must have an earned core subject average of at least 80% for the year-to-date (YTD average in English/Language Arts, Reading, Math, and Science. (For Example: English/Language Arts + Reading + Math + Science /4 = Average) Example: (95 + 90 + 80 + 85= 350 divided by 4 = 87.5 Average)
2. Conduct: During the current school year, students in 5th-7th Grades must have a minimum YTD average of a B in conduct. Students must have no more than two Class II offenses and no Class III offenses, during the current year. Class offenses are documented referrals and defined in the 2016-17 Conecuh County Schools' Code of Conduct.  
(Out of System Students -MUST attach their 1st semester report card to the magnet school application form)
3. ACT Aspire is not an eligibility component. However, ACT Aspire scores may be used as a factor for those qualifying based on their core subject average if there are more eligible applicants than available slots.
4. If accepted, student must maintain this behavior requirement at their current school for the remainder of the academic year to remain eligible to attend SPMA.

## FAQs



**What is Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy?** Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy (SPMA) is a school based program that has a focused theme and aligned curricula in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM). Students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> have the opportunity to apply for admission into SPMA if they meet eligibility requirements.

**What grade levels will the magnet program cover?** 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades

**What's the population capacity?** 150

**Will Southside cause the other local schools to lose student enrollment?** No. Students who meet the eligibility requirements and are selected for SPMA, will remain enrolled in their local base school. Although the students will remain enrolled in their base school, they will attend all of their classes at SPMA.

**What if my child has special needs?** Exceptional education students may be admitted if the IEP Committee determines that a magnet school is the Least Restrictive Environment for the student.

**Will the district provide transportation to SPMA?** Yes, students who are selected to attend SPMA will be transported from their base school in the mornings and transported back to their base school in the afternoons or to a drop-off location.

**What are the eligibility requirements?** Eligibility requirements are found in the SPMA Handbook.

**How will students be selected to attend SPMA?** The selection process is found in the SPMA Handbook.

**How can I enroll my child into Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy?** If you think your child qualifies, please complete the Southside Preparatory Magnet Academy application found online or in the handbook.

**How will students be selected?** Seats will be offered at every grade level (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) as space permits. In the event there are more applicants than available seats, students will either remain on the waiting list in rank order or a lottery selection will be conducted. Applicants who are not selected due to limited space may be assigned later, if additional seats become available.

**My child has not been identified as gifted. Is there still a place for my child at SPMA?** Yes. Students do not have to qualify for gifted services to attend SPMA.

**Will students be allowed to participate in school sponsored after school extra-curricular activities?** Yes.

**Will my child be able to participate in the athletics programs offered at their base school?** Yes

**What happens when students complete 8th Grade at SPMA?** Plans are being developed to provide SPMA students with an accelerated, rigorous, curriculum, similar to what is provided at SPMA at the high school level.

**What are the costs associated with SPMA?** Since SPMA is a public school, there are no required costs for application and enrollment.

**Can my child return back to their home-base school if he or she doesn't like attending SPMA?** Yes, but they will not be eligible to reapply or return to SPMA until the following school term.

**Will instruction be provided by certified teachers or through distance learning?** All teachers will

be certified. Instruction will take place in a face to face format.

**Will the gifted program still be available in other schools?** Yes.

**What does STEAM mean?** STEAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics.

**How will the Magnet school differ from the other traditional schools?** Students will receive rigorous instruction in Math, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Students will also attend a STEAM block where they will engage in units of study where they apply STEAM concepts. Students will also participate in Piano Classes.

**How will my child's data be reported? Will it go to the base school? Which teacher will be linked to my child's data?** Student's data will be reported to the base school. The homeroom teacher from SPMA will be linked to the student's data.

**What are the times of daily operation at SPMA?** Daily hours of operation will be determined based on transportation needs.

**Will funding in the traditional school be effected by students attending SPMA?** No

**Is SPMA a charter school?** No. SPMA is a public school.

**How many teachers will work at SPMA?** The number of teachers will be based on student needs.

**What STEAM courses will be offered?** How Did I Get Here & Forensic Science; Piano & Creating Your Own Musical Instruments; Picture Perfect Publishing & Movie Magic; Southside Engineers & Robotics; Around the World in 90 Days & Iron Chef

**What will the class sizes be?** There will be approximately 15-25 students per class.

**Will SPMA students take the same state and district assessments as students from traditional school?** Yes.

**Will my child participate in graduation at their base school or at SPMA?** SPMA

**How will the enrollment of SPMA affect the enrollment at other schools in the district?** Enrollment at SPMA will reduce student class sizes in all other traditional schools for 6th-8th Grades. This will allow the traditional school teachers to focus more on intervention and individualized assistance.

**If the enrollment at SPMA drops and causes the program to end during the middle of the year, where will the teachers be placed?** Funding for SPMA will occur annually. If the program ends at the end of the school year, tenured teachers will be reassigned to another school in the district.

**What are the qualifications for teachers at SPMA?** Teacher requirements are located on the CCBOE job announcement.

**What is the cost for students to apply, enroll, and attend SPMA?** There are no costs for students to apply, enroll, and attend SPMA.

**Will breakfast and lunch be offered at SPMA?** Yes.

**Will my child be able to participate in May Day, Fall Festival, and additional special celebrations**

**at their base school or will SPMA offer these special celebrations?** SPMA will offer special celebrations similar to those of the base school

**Will SPMA have a PTA program?** Yes

**When there are problems on the school bus which principal will the issue be reported to?**  
SPMA Principal

**What if I am new to the area and the school year has already started and my child meets the criteria, can my child enroll if he or she meets the qualifications?** Applications will only be accepted during the open enrollment period.