



**cms**

**CMS Transportation**  
**Operationalizing the Student Experience**

December 2022



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# Background

Board Policy &  
Transportation

Magnet  
Programming &  
Access

Express  
Transportation

Roadmap  
Implementation

Next Steps

- Over the years CMS has increased the number of magnet programs offered, resulting in greater complexity and a growing demand for transportation
- School transportation services in districts across the nation have been challenged due to the lack of drivers and mechanics
- CMS staff must operationalize the adopted budget while creating improvements to overall transportation service for our students, as such, recommended changes are necessary
- In order to optimize the transportation system under the current conditions and demands of program growth, the department has explored alternative service modes to increase system efficiencies and improve the student experience, while reducing cost

# School Choice Magnet Themes & Transportation

CMBE policy governs and articulates that students will be provided CMS transportation to magnet programs.

## 1996: First year of Magnet Programs

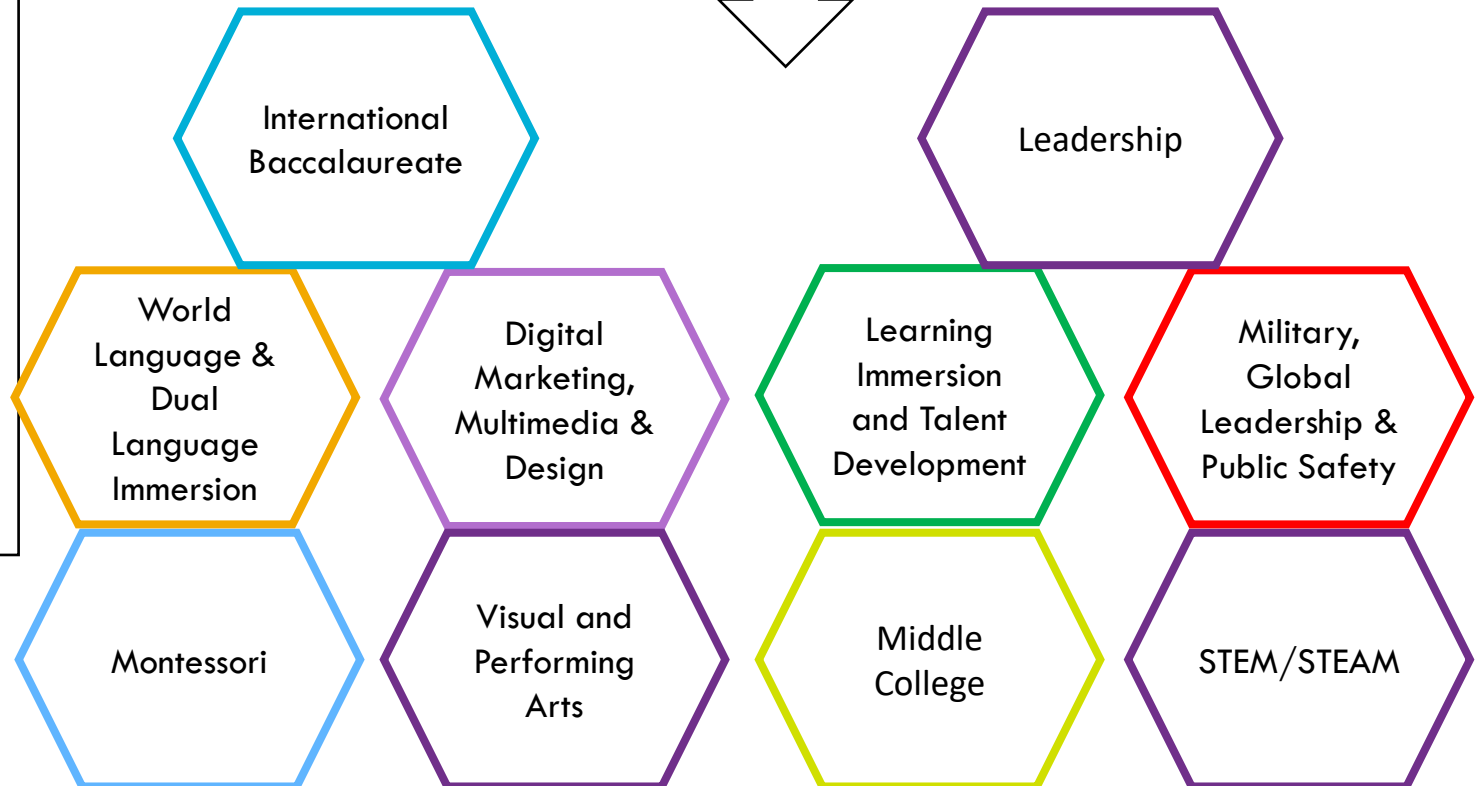
16 magnet themes; 47 schools

**2010:** 12 magnet themes; 43 schools

**2016:** 12 magnet themes; 43 schools

**2022-23:** 14 magnet themes at **71** schools

## School Choice Magnet Themes



# Alignment to Adopted Budget



- Reductions and modifications to core services are considered to navigate the budget and close the budget gap.
- In 2021-2022 a \$3.2 million reduction was made which included reducing cost associated with magnet transportation.
- In 2022-2023 fund balance appropriation was used to cover operating expense since the magnet transportation changes associated with the budget cut had not been operationalized.

CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2021-22 ADOPTED PROGRAM CHANGES

Explanation of Change	Description	State Cost	Local Cost	Federal Cost
<b>Reductions/Redirections</b>				
<b>Change Reference: A.</b>				
Multiple strategies were employed to close the budget gap including utilizing other funding sources and making additional budget reductions and redirections. Transfers of costs to state funding in our school administration and non-instructional category contributed \$.3 million to close the gap. Other reductions included eliminating funds for bad debt due meals being provided at no cost to students for the 2021-2022 school year (US Department of Agriculture waiver), reducing transportation costs associated with magnet transportation, and using vacancy savings for the one-time state approved bonus.	Salaries & Benefits		(860,046)	
	Purchased Services		(345,000)	
	Supplies & Materials		(3,246,161)	
	<b>Total Reductions/Redirections</b>		-	<b>(4,451,207)</b>

Explanation of Change	Description	State Cost	Local Cost	Federal Cost
<b>I. Sustaining Operations</b>				
<b>Change Reference: I.A.</b>				
<b>A. Program Continuation</b>				
1. <u>Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems Modernization</u> Recognizing our dated technology is rapidly becoming unsustainable, the State Board of Education has commenced a multiyear project to modernize core systems (finance, payroll, human resources, capital planning) used by DPI and local school administrative units.	Purchased Services	3,985,572		
The modernization program will improve process and data integration (e.g. state/local licensure) while increasing operational efficiency, data management, and compliance monitoring. The integrated platform will provide common state and local reporting with advanced analytics to enable more informed decisions and actionable insights. The contemporary technology (Software-as-a-Service – Cloud) will constantly evolve with new capabilities and enhancements delivered annually to improve process automation, reduce errors and deliver a better employee experience allowing CMS to reinvest efficiency gains into our core mission. Funding is included for ERP licensing and implementation support for year three of the modernization project.				

# Transportation Statistics

- District Area: 546 Square Miles
- District Enrollment: 141,217 Students (20<sup>th</sup> Day Enrollment Numbers)
- Assigned Students for Transportation: 2022-2023: 111,877 or 78.17 %
- Number of Buses In Operation: 853 (925 w/ Exceptional Children)
- Avg Miles Per Year: 20 million
- Total Number of Bus Runs Per Day: 4,875
- On-time Performance:
  - AM – 93.4%
  - PM – 88.0%
- Bus Driver Vacancies: 35
- Drivers on Leave: 39



# Express Transportation

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**Impacts to families:** Transportation is an important component of the district connecting students to schools and opportunity. Modifying magnet transportation allows the district increase its service while reducing student ride time, and increasing access, with minimal impacts to families.

## What change can high school students expect to see?

- Change to pick up location, 2-3 miles
- Change to pick up time and drop off time
- Reduced ride time
- Stops designed with student need in mind

## • What are the benefits to Express Routes for high school students?

- Improves equity of ride time by 40-50%
- Reduction in the number of early pick up's
- Improves on time arrival for all district routes
- Maximizes transportation resources



# Wake County Comparison

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42 schools with Express service

13 schools are 'parent provide'

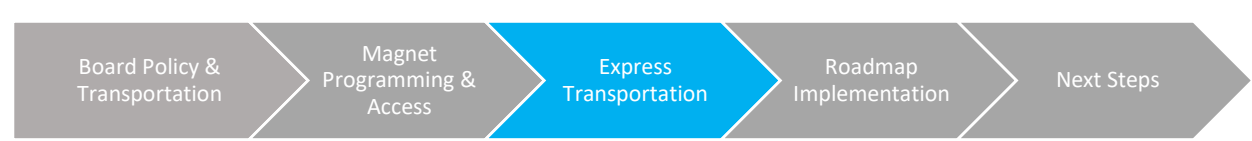
Try to keep sites within 5 miles but some cases up to 10

Work with magnet office for focused students to attract

They do combine express sites on a run

Drop-off at high schools 40 minutes early due to shortage

# Magnet Transportation



## Express Route Schools 2023-2024

Total Students Impacted – 5151

1. Harding IB & Berry Technical Academy
2. East Mecklenburg High School
3. Hawthorne & Military Global Leadership
4. North Mecklenburg High School
5. Northwest School of Arts
6. Secondary Montessori @ JT Williams
7. South Mecklenburg High School
8. UNCC
9. EE Waddell
10. PACE – district wide program
11. CPCC – Central Campus

## Why were these schools chosen?

1. Alleviates impact to elementary and middle students.
2. Express routes will only be offered at the high school magnet programs listed.
3. Current bus routes cover the largest geographic and resultant daily mileage.
4. Modifying current routes will yield improved service for all district schools.



# The Student Experience

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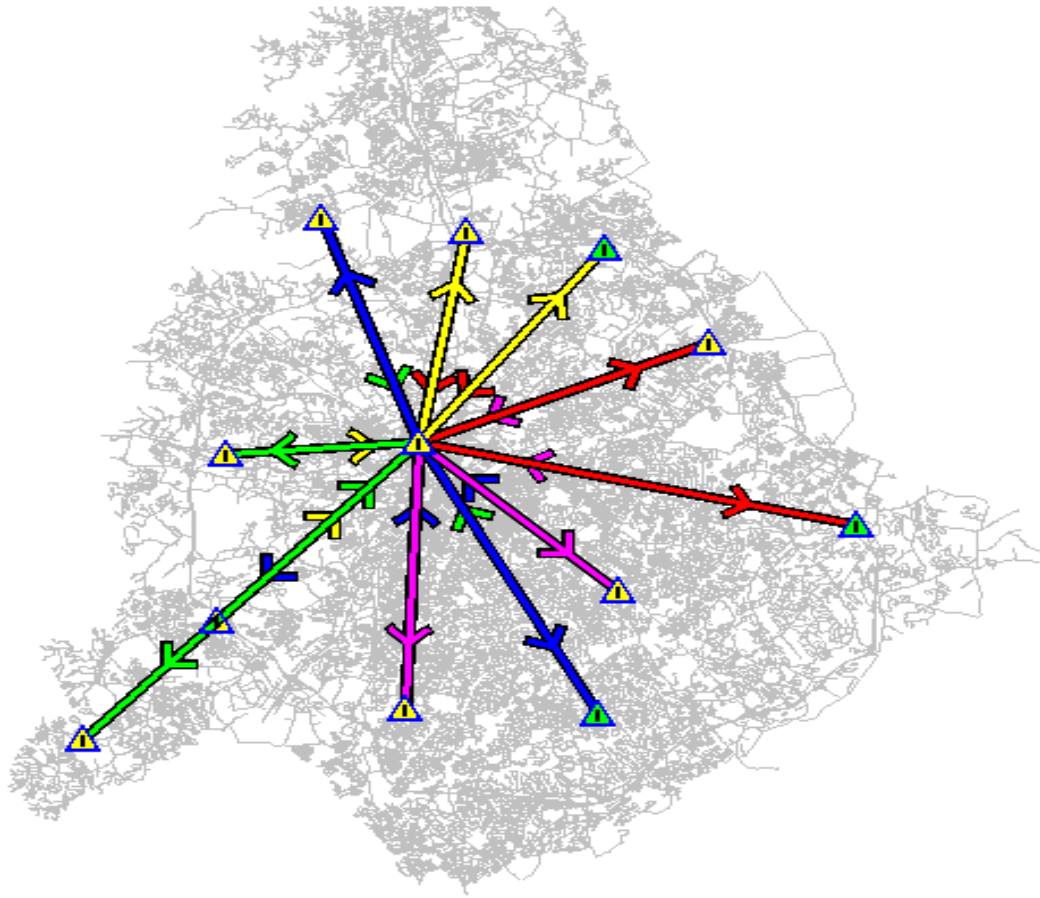
Next Steps

- Full magnet students eligible for transportation would be assigned to their express site closest to home. Campus Security Associates would assist in safety support.
- An estimated 2,000 fewer students, based on assigned students, will be picked up between 4:58am – 6:00am.
- An estimated 5,211 students may experience a stop change.
- Estimated 1 hour and 15-minute reduction in run length on the bus for schools that implement express stop.
- We estimate a total of 1,335,600 or 6.67% of annual miles reduced by adjusting to Express routes.
- Northwest School of the Arts would require a bell time adjustment.
- Campus Safety Associates would be on hand to support students.

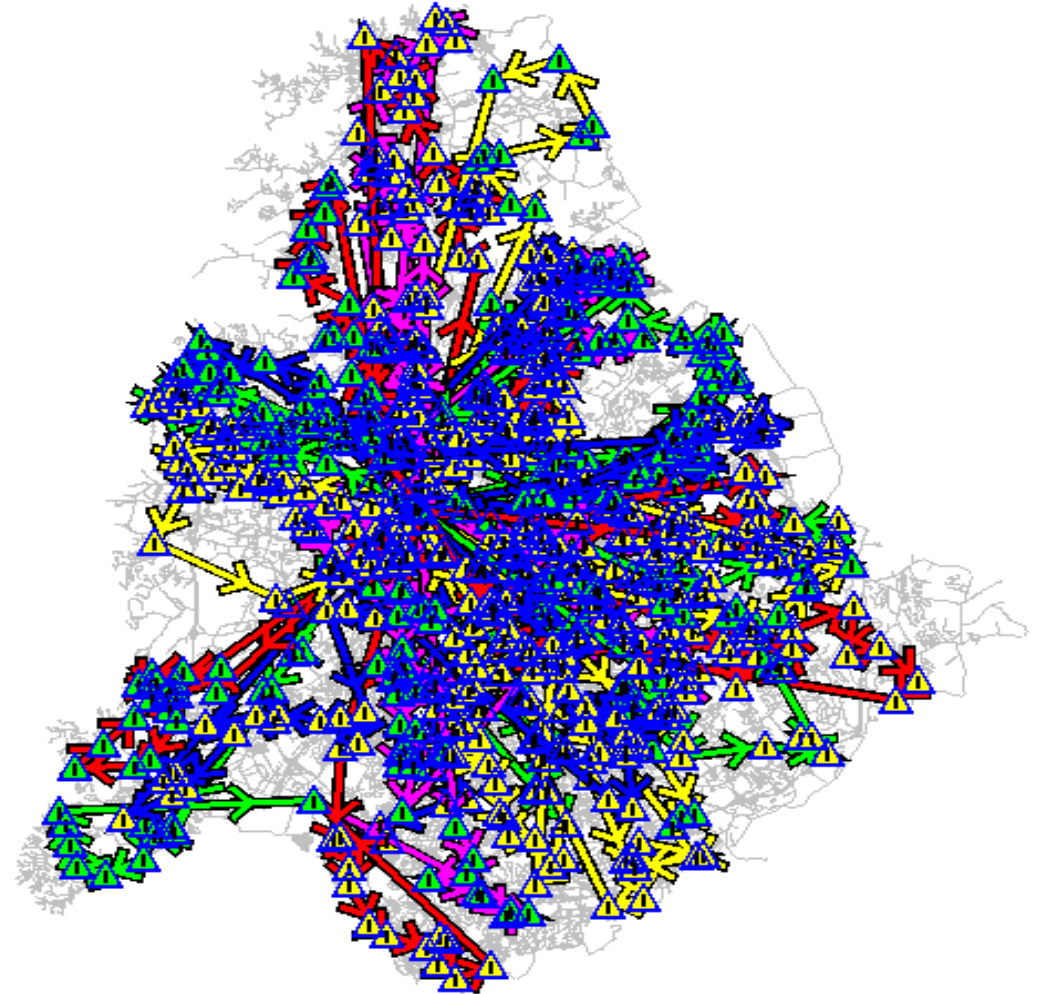


# Northwest School of the Arts

2015-2016 Enrollment: 1,015



2022-2023 Enrollment: 1,041



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**Questions?**

**Thank You**

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