

CHARLOTTE

Innovation and Excellence in Education

EVERY CHILD. EVERY DAY. FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

The Charlotte community is proud of what Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) offers, and the district's slogan matches its vision. CMS provides a strong foundation in the basics — reading, writing and mathematics — and much, much more to prepare students to be globally competitive.

Nationally recognized for combining academic rigor with rich opportunities in the arts and humanities, CMS has the resources and the expertise to focus on the unique needs of each student. CMS offers a world of choices, including classical studies, culinary arts, information technology, and the highly acclaimed International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement diploma programs.

THE **CHARLOTTE** COMMUNITY'S DEEP AND **CONTINUING** COMMITMENT TO **SUPERIOR** EDUCATION IS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE **QUALITY** OF CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG **SCHOOLS**.



Quality and Growth

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community treats education as its most precious resource, and the Board of Education is dedicated to ensuring that CMS provides "all students the best education available anywhere, preparing every child to lead a rich and productive life."

CMS is recognized nationally for academic excellence. CMS won the 2011 Broad Prize, which is presented annually to four school districts in the country for elevating their achievement levels. As a winner, the district received \$250,000 in scholarships. CMS was a finalist for the Broad Prize in 2004 and 2010.

CMS recently renewed its district accreditation from AdvanceEd, the world's largest education network. CMS was the first large urban district in N.C. and in the country to earn accreditation more than a decade ago.

CMS serves 142,612 students in pre-K through 12th grade. As the 18th-largest district in the country, CMS has 160 schools and more than 18,000 employees. CMS is big, but its national reputation comes from the outstanding education provided to each student in the district. CMS realizes that what works for one student may not work for another.

CMS class size conforms to state requirements. The Equity Plus program in CMS lowers class sizes in schools with higher percentages of students living in poverty.

Top Quality Employees

CMS employs 9,180 full-time teachers and approximately 1,161 administrative staff. More than 3,500 of the district's certified teachers have advanced degrees.

CMS ranks fourth nationwide and second among school districts in N.C. for newly certified National Board teachers. For the 2012-2013 school year, 1,237 CMS teachers were National Board certified. Equivalent to the CPA exam for accountants or the bar exam for lawyers, the National Board certification documents a teacher's skills.

Superior Student Achievement

CMS sets high expectations for students and challenges them to reach their fullest potential. Thus, academic rigor and access to challenging courses are top priorities. In 2013, five CMS high schools were ranked among America's top 1,000 high schools surveyed by Newsweek Magazine.

Enrollment in AP courses increased from 4,079 students in 1995-96 to 12,349 in 2011-2012. As a result of the district's commitment to academic excellence, CMS was selected as one of 28 school systems across the country to award the first AP diplomas. CMS has increased the number of exams taken from 2,200 in 1995-96 to 8,416 in 2012-2013. Of the 249 IB Diploma candidates, 102 students earned the IB Diploma in 2012-2013.





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Above Average SAT Scores

In CMS, 59.7 percent of eligible students took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 2013, compared to 50 percent nationally. National and state SAT scores are a composite of both public and nonpublic schools. Mecklenburg's results compare favorably with both state and national scores.

In 2013, 8,941 students graduated from the 28 Charlotte-Mecklenburg high schools. Last school year, CMS graduates earned more than \$96 million in academic and athletic scholarships.

Exceptional Magnet Programs

Magnet schools offer students an opportunity to focus on a particular theme or curriculum while receiving the N.C. Standard Course of Study. Today, 37 schools offer specialized magnet programs ranging from visual and performing arts to math, science and technology, Montessori, and language immersion. Magnet Schools of America awarded honors to 20

MORE THAN 8,900 STUDENTS GRADUATED FROM CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS IN 2013.

of those programs in 2013, naming 10 schools of excellence and the other 10 schools of distinction. CMS's nationally recognized magnet schools serve more than 16,000 students in nine different programs.

Classrooms on the Cutting Edge

As a result of business and community support, technology is a strong focus in all CMS schools. An example of this dedication to technology includes the Computer Access to Neighborhoods Program located within the community at various school sites.

Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology is the district's magnet technology high school, offering students an array of upper level technology courses necessary for certification exams. Officials at the school collaborate with business professionals and higher education institutions to ensure they concentrate on current and future high demand IT career areas.

A Model Pre-K Program

Bright Beginnings, a program for four-year-olds, is recognized nationally and serves as a model for similar programs throughout the state and country. Developed in 1996, this literacy-based program helps students enter kindergarten ready and eager to learn. Currently, more than 2,600 four-year-olds are enrolled in this program.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

	Writing	Math	Critical Reading	Total
Mecklenburg	477	503	493	1,473
N.C.	478	506	495	1,479
National	488	514	496	1,498

*Mecklenburg County scores appear lower due to the exclusion of private schools in calculations. N.C. and national SAT scores include all schools (public and nonpublic).



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**SIXTY-FOUR CMS SCHOOLS WERE
NAMED HONOR SCHOOLS OF
EXCELLENCE OR DISTINCTION BY
THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.**

Committed to Meeting Special Needs

The goal of CMS is to provide educational opportunities that encourage, challenge and motivate all students. In programs for exceptional children, students with disabilities are encouraged to develop and flourish through individualized instruction in the least restrictive environment. Programs are available throughout Mecklenburg County and are determined by addressing each student's needs through Individual Education Programs.

A Multitude of Programs and Services

CMS offers a broad range of services and programs to enhance the district's educational opportunities. The English as a Second Language program offers assistance to students whose native language is not English. More than 14,000 CMS students have been identified as limited English proficient – 175 native languages are spoken, and 158 countries are represented.

The After School Enrichment Program provides a caring and nurturing environment for students beyond the regular classroom day at every CMS elementary and at select middle schools. The program focuses on exciting activities such as sports, arts, computer exploration, music, dance, drama, clubs and much more. The program is supported by weekly fees paid by parents and operates on school holidays as well as during winter and spring break. Before-school care is available in many of these schools.

Effective Business Partnerships

CMS is fortunate to have many business and community partners who provide resources and volunteer support to schools. More than 90,000 volunteers have contributed thousands of



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volunteer hours in CMS. More than 1,000 business partners provide assistance to the schools through upwards of \$17 million in school-business partnerships.

Superior Transportation

North Carolina law requires all school systems to offer free transportation to any student who lives 1.5 miles or more from his or her assigned school. Special needs students are also guaranteed free transportation. Currently, 955 buses serve CMS students, traveling on 5,800 daily routes. The CMS buses travel nearly 107,000 miles each day, and 123,000 students use these services.

Efficient Education Dollars

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg community shows consistent dedication to quality education. The community passed a \$516 million bond referendum in 2007 to renovate older facilities and build six new schools. These new facilities were constructed to address the growing population in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, as well as equity. The 2012-2013 total operating budget for CMS is \$1.2 billion with funding support from county, state and federal sources. Per pupil expenditure was \$8,473 for 2012-2013.

New Facilities

New facilities and renovation projects are scheduled over the next decade to address the facility needs that arise from rapid growth and aging buildings. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), CMS builds healthy, high-performance schools by following the guidelines of EPA's IAQ Design Tools for Schools program. The district was recognized and awarded the EPA's 2007 Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools National Model of Sustained Excellence Award.

In CMS, one thing is certain: every child deserves and can expect to receive the best education possible. To



find out more about Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and the opportunities available to every child, log on to cms.k12.nc.us, check out CMS TV 3 or contact the Public Information Office at 980.343.7450.

Other School Alternatives

More than 26,000 students are enrolled in 80 private schools and charter schools. This growing system includes elementary, middle and high schools with various religious affiliations as well as independent institutions. A complete listing of these schools is available from the chamber online or in print.

Additional Community Support

Many organizations in Mecklenburg County support CMS's efforts to maintain excellence in education for students. The largest of these is the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, which supports literacy and educational success through its early literacy efforts to prepare children for school; student-oriented programs and homework help after school; teen programs to help transition to college and the workforce; and summer reading programs to help students maintain academic achievement levels during summer break. For more information, please visit cmlibrary.org.

For public school information contact:
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