

Applying to JCPS Middle and High Schools



All JCPS students are assigned to a middle or high school based on where they live. This school is called their “resides” school. However, if students want to go to schools with special programs in other parts of the city, they can apply to them.

The application process is primarily for new students and those just entering middle or high school, but students already at a certain middle or high school may apply for a new school. They will only be considered if there is an extra space available, though.

The online application is open from late October through early January for the following school year at <https://webapps.jefferson.kyschools.us/StudentAssignment/OMOnlineApplication/>. Students will need their parents’ Campus Portal username and password or Portal Activation Key. If the student does not know the Portal Activation Key, a new one can be requested by clicking on “What’s this?” under “Portal Activation Key.”

The application is short, but schools will often request additional information from students such as transcripts, recommendation forms, and behavior reports, usually via a letter that applicants receive in the mail a few weeks after submitting an application. Students’ guidance counselors can help them get this additional information and send it to the appropriate middle or high school.

At http://www.jefferson.kyschools.us/parent/Apply_Middle_High.html, there is a document called “Choices” that describes the different middle and high schools and one called “5-Star Schools” that describes the high school clusters. It is worthwhile to read through them, but here are some highlights:

- JCPS has a number of magnet middle schools that focus on a specific subject or have a special learning environment. If a student is accepted into one of these schools, JCPS will provide transportation.
- A few middle schools have “Optional Programs,” which are small programs focused on a specific subject within a school. Students may apply to these optional programs, but JCPS will not provide transportation to the school.
- 15 of the JCPS high schools are organized into 3 networks that each have 5 schools in them. Each network has one school focused on Human Services, Education, and International Studies; one focused on Medicine, Health, and the Environment; one focused on Business and Information Technology; one focused on Communication, Media, and the Arts; and one focused on Engineering (Aeronautics, Architecture, Construction, and Manufacturing). Students can apply to any of the 15 schools. They are likely to have transportation provided to the schools in their home network, and they may or may not get transportation to a school in a different network.
- There are four regular magnet high schools to which any student in the district may apply, and transportation is provided to most students who are accepted into most of the schools.
- There are two traditional magnet high schools open to any student in the district, and most students who are accepted to them are provided with transportation.