

# Buist Academy

## APPROVED ACTION

Buist Academy's entrance criteria and school configuration will be changed beginning with the 2020-21 school year as follows:

- Phase-out grades K-2 as follows: kindergarten (2020-21), first grade (2021-22), and second grade (2022-23). Beginning in school year 2023-24, Buist will operate as a grades 3-8 school. No new students will be accepted in grades K-2 at Buist.
- Expand grades 3, 4, 5, 6 by one class per grade in 2020-21. For 2020-21 only, give priority to students scoring at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on MAP Reading and Math who are zoned for an elementary school in Charleston County with a poverty index equal to or greater than 80 percent.
- Develop prior to the start of the 2020-21 school year new admissions criteria for third graders and keeping the current level of academic standards and is the same for all elementary school students.
- Entrance criteria will come back to Board.
- By 2024-25 expand middle enrollment to four classes per grade.
- Review county-wide academic magnet data and entrance criteria annually in order to ensure changes are producing results consistent with Board goals of quality and fair representation of student populations.
- All applicants from throughout the district will be screened to determine eligibility.

## PURPOSE FOR RECOMMENDED CHANGE

Buist Academy's current mechanism for identifying gifted students for acceptance prior to kindergarten is not educationally sound. Additionally, it has resulted in a K-8 school with only 8% African-American students and 12% students in poverty – not representative of CCSD as a whole and not inclusive of students from various backgrounds who could perform in a school setting designed for students who score at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> national percentile academically. The District can provide a responsible mechanism for identifying gifted students prior to third grade that will result in more students from diverse backgrounds being able to take advantage of high quality gifted and talented programming – while continuing to maintain Buist's track record of high academic achievement.

## EXPECTED BENEFITS

- Maintain the high expectations of the students entering Buist while expanding the number of seats.
- Provide underrepresented groups with access to high quality programs.

**Elementary and Middle Schools with 80% of higher poverty rating in 2019-20:**

Memminger Elementary, Edith Frierson Elementary, A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Mt. Zion Elementary, Charleston Development Academy, Pepperhill Elementary, St. James-Santee Elementary/Middle, Pinehurst Elementary, W.B. Goodwin Elementary, E.B. Ellington Elementary, Charleston Progressive Academy, North Charleston Elementary, Meeting Street at Brentwood, Minnie Hughes Elementary, Stono Park Elementary, Jane Edwards Elementary, Matilda Dunston Elementary, Mary Ford Elementary, Midland Park Primary, Chicora Elementary, Julian Mitchell Elementary, Sanders-Clyde Elementary, Edmund Burns Elementary, Jerry Zucker Middle, Military Magnet Academy, Northwoods Middle, Morningside Middle, Simmons-Pinckney Middle, Baptist Hill Middle, Deer Park Middle.

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