Cherokee County School District (CCSD) is recognized as one of the top school districts in Georgia; its students, schools and staff routinely receive state and national recognition for programs and performance. While the majority of students (90%) attend a neighborhood school, there are many opportunities for school choice in Cherokee County.

**School Reassignment within CCSD**

Parents in Cherokee County can apply for school reassignment between February 1 and March 1 each year. Information is posted on the CCSD website February 1 of each year, with all necessary documents and the list of schools with space available to accommodate additional students. Transportation is not provided for students who receive a reassignment. Parents should be aware that high school students may lose eligibility under Georgia High School Association rules for Varsity-level athletics under this type of transfer.

**Cherokee Academies**

CCSD currently operates five STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Academies and two Fine Arts Academies. Students at these schools have a more integrated curriculum focused on either STEM or Fine Arts; openings for reassignment at a STEM or Fine Arts Academy vary annually. Parents will follow the same reassignment procedures for the Academies as noted above, with the same forms and same window of February 1—March 1.

**2019-20 STEM Academies:** Ball Ground, Clark Creek (not open for new transfers), Holly Springs, Knox and RM Moore.  
**2019-20 Fine Arts Academies:** Hasty and Oak Grove.

**High School Options**

While the majority of high school students complete diploma requirements in a traditional setting, CCSD offers multiple avenues and settings to earn credit toward graduation:

- **Polaris Evening Program**— students attend class on campus in the evening hours.
- **ACE Academy**— an alternative learning environment for middle and high school students to work at their own pace. ACE operates during regular school hours; transportation is provided.
- **Virtual Courses**— students can take courses for initial credit and credit recovery online. CCSD high school students can take advantage of the Georgia Virtual School (GaVS) and our local APEX Learning Program.
- **Dual Enrollment**— Qualified high school students can earn high school and college credit simultaneously on a college campus through the Dual Enrollment program. Chattahoochee Technical College, Kennesaw State University and Reinhardt University are among the participating colleges. Find out more [here](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx).

Consult your child’s school counseling office for more information on any of these options.

**Other Options**

- **Home School:** the State Department of Education now handles Home School enrollment and related paperwork. For information, please see the DOE website at [http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Pages/Home-Schools.aspx)
- **Private School:** there are a number of private schools located in and near Cherokee County.
- **Charter School:** Cherokee Charter Academy is the only charter school with a campus in Cherokee County; there are several statewide virtual charter schools, as well. Cherokee Charter Academy was approved by the Georgia Charter School Commission and is not affiliated with CCSD.
School Choice: What Factors Should Parents Consider?

As parents know, every child is different. What works for one student may not work for another, even within one family.

Parents consider many factors when making a decision about school placement for their child. The priority for one child may be challenging academics; for another child, the learning environment may take precedence.

Some parents seek faith-based instruction in a private school setting. Some seek a specific emphasis within the curriculum to focus on their child’s talents or interests. Transportation to and from home may be an essential consideration for some children, due to work and family schedules or extra-curricular activities. Some parents seek a more diverse student body, reflective of the community where they live, realizing that their children must learn to function in a global society with a range of cultures and backgrounds.

No matter what a parent’s decision in regard to school choice, the Cherokee County School District respects that parents make the ultimate decision for their child.

If school choice leads a family to consider options outside of CCSD, parents are welcome to re-enroll their child in the Cherokee County School District at any time.

How Do Cherokee County Schools Perform?

Cherokee County Schools consistently perform above State and National averages on all assessments. Note: CCSD assessment information is posted on the CCSD website for the public to review and is updated throughout the year.

2018 ACT AVERAGE SCORES

- CCSD: 23.0
- GEORGIA: 21.4
- NATION: 20.8

2018 SAT AVERAGE SCORES

- CCSD: 1112
- GEORGIA: 1064
- NATION: 1068

CCSD’s district average SAT and ACT scores routinely rank it as one of the Top 10 school districts in GA

- Four-year graduation rate: 87.4%
- Five-year graduation rate: 89%
- 2018 HOPE eligible graduates: 57.3%
- 2018 Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate: 74%
- 2016 CCSD graduates requiring remedial classes at Georgia Public Colleges and Universities: 11%

Do Private Schools Perform Better?

Private schools are not subject to transparency or open records requirements; so, it is up to the individual school whether it will release test results or other information. As a consumer, it is up to you to ask for comparative data and then use that information to determine if the school is a good fit for your child.
Do Charter Schools Perform Better?

Charter schools were conceived as incubators of innovation, envisioned as small schools where teachers were freed from bureaucratic restraints and empowered to utilize various teaching methods and techniques to increase student achievement. The best practices gleaned from charter schools were then intended to be introduced to traditional public schools so all students could benefit.

While the scope and purpose of charter schools has shifted now to being primarily a vehicle of school choice and/or privatization, the State still requires that charter schools be held accountable for increasing academic achievement. Results for charter schools both in Georgia and across the Nation have been mixed in this regard, with little concrete evidence that students are consistently performing better in charter schools.

Using Georgia’s metric for school evaluation (the College and Career Ready Performance Index, or CCRPI) for 2018, Cherokee Charter Academy, authorized by the State Charter School Commission, ranked at the bottom among CCSD elementary schools and in the middle of CCSD middle schools. The overall score for CCSD of 79.0 exceeded the overall score for Cherokee Charter Academy, which was 72.2 (below the Georgia average overall score of 76.6).

State Accountability

The most recent Academic Accountability Update for State-authorized charter schools can be found here on the State Charter School Commission website. The report for Cherokee Charter Academy is on page 21. The charter school did not meet academic performance standards at any level.

Teacher Turnover, Experience

CCSD employs a mix of new and veteran teachers, and provides mentors and support for first-year teachers. CCSD teacher turnover rate is 7% annually, versus a Statewide rate of 11%. The average CCSD teacher has 14 years of experience, holds a masters degree; the average teacher at Cherokee Charter Academy has a bachelor's degree and three years of experience; teacher turnover rates at CCA have exceeded 30% in recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018 SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSD DISTRICT OVERALL</td>
<td>79.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE CHARTER OVERALL</td>
<td>72.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA AVERAGE OVERALL</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSD ELEMENTARY</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE CHARTER ELEM</td>
<td>71.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA ELEMENTARY</td>
<td>77.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCSD MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE CHARTER MIDDLE</td>
<td>75.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA MIDDLE SCHOOL</td>
<td>76.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CCRPI scores (including climate and financial efficiency ratings) for all 36 CCSD schools can be found on the DOE website.

Funding Equality

State charter schools do not receive local funds, but they do receive a double allotment of state funds that in many cases exceeds what their revenue from local property taxes would be. State data charts for revenues and expenditures can be found here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Expenditure Per Student</th>
<th>Avg CCRPI Score</th>
<th>Efficiency Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCSD</td>
<td>$8,316</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>★★★★★</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Charter</td>
<td>$9,146</td>
<td>73.0</td>
<td>★★★</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stars = 2018 State Financial Efficiency Rating, 1-5 Scale (5 is the maximum score)
CCSD Public Schools Offer:

- Award-winning, high-achieving schools that consistently win region, state and national recognition and awards
- AdvancED accreditation as a Quality School System
- School Choice within the District
- Elementary STEM and Fine Arts Academies
- Professionally staffed and trained School Nurses
- Counselors at every school
- Certified School Police Department
- High school credit courses for advanced 8th graders, along with middle school foreign language
- Middle school band and chorus, plus intramural sports, basketball teams and cheer programs
- Affordable lunches and After School programs
- Nationally recognized classroom technology integration and teacher training
- Kindergarten paraprofessionals
- School-based Pre-K at select sites
- Character Education at all grade levels
- Full range of high school athletics, fine arts and academic competition teams/programs
- 30 AP courses offered; 74% of CCSD students achieved AP scores in 2018 to qualify for college credit
- AP STEM and STEM Achievement high schools
- Two state-certified STEM schools
- 9th Grade Academies for freshmen
- Evening and online high school credit options
- Elected School Board members for fiscal/policy transparency, accountability and local control; accessible open meetings of the Board
- School Councils and PTAs at every school for parent input and participation
- Comprehensive website for parents and community, including online access to School Board agenda materials, financial reports, budget documents & test scores
- BYLD initiative allowing students to bring and use their own technology in class
- Access to 21st century technology in every CCSD school... including desktops, tablets, laptops and mobile devices, student response devices, interactive whiteboards, high speed and filtered internet access, research and curricular digital resources

http://cherokeek12.net/

770.479.1871