

# Parent Interest Inventory: Magnet School Options and School Calendar

## INTRODUCTION

Greetings on behalf of Transylvania County Schools! We are committed to providing a world-class education to all the students of our county, and we value the input of our local community regarding options that might enhance the educational opportunities we provide. We would appreciate your taking a few moments to share your thoughts and opinions on two topics about which we often receive questions and suggestions: **magnet school options** and **school calendar options**. We believe that collecting information from our community about both options will help us to better understand the value parents place on them. I want to emphasize that we are simply gathering information about both options in order to improve our understanding. No plans or decisions, either tentative or firm, have been made about either option.

In advance, I want to thank you for sharing your responses. Your feedback is very important to us as we continuously strive to improve the services we provide.

Sincerely,

Jeff McDaris, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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**\*To begin, please indicate the school(s) where you will have a child enrolled for the 2013-14 school year. Please check all that apply:**

- Brevard Elementary School
- Brevard Middle School
- Brevard High School
- Davidson River School
- Pisgah Forest Elementary School
- Rosman Elementary School
- Rosman High School
- Rosman Middle School
- TC Henderson Elementary School

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## PART 1: MAGNET SCHOOL OPTIONS

A **magnet school** provides specialized learning opportunities in a concentration area, while also providing more traditional instruction in the core academic areas. Some magnet schools provide concentrated instruction in the fine arts, science, technology, or another concentration area through specialized courses, while also providing traditional courses in English, math, science, and social studies. Other magnet schools provide specialized experiences in a particular concentration area by emphasizing them within traditional English, math, science, and social studies courses.

**\*Please select ONE option that BEST describes your current level of interest in a magnet school option for your child:**

- I am very interested in a magnet school option for my child.
- I am somewhat interested in a magnet school option for my child.
- I am not very interested in a magnet school option for my child.
- I have no interest whatsoever in a magnet school option for my child.
- I do not have enough information about magnet school options to state my opinion at this time.

**\*Which, if any, of the following magnet school concentration areas are of specific interest to you? Please check all that apply:**

- Environmental Sciences
- Expeditionary Learning
- Humanities
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math
- Visual & Performing Arts
- None

Other (please specify)

**\*If a magnet concentration area were available at my child's school next year, then I would most likely:**

- keep my child enrolled at the school and participate in the magnet concentration area
- keep my child enrolled at the school but not participate in the magnet concentration area
- enroll my child at a different school without a magnet concentration area
- not decide about my child's enrollment until learning more about the magnet concentration area available at his or her school

## Parent Interest Inventory: Magnet School Options and School Calendar

**Please provide any additional information you would like to share about magnet school options, including any questions you may have about them:**

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## PART 2: SCHOOL CALENDAR OPTIONS

Under North Carolina's current school calendar rules, local school districts have the flexibility to adopt either **traditional** or **modified** school calendars.

**Traditional school calendars** must include at least 185 student attendance days OR 1,025 hours of instruction, and they typically run from mid-August until early June.

**Modified school calendars** must also include at least 185 student attendance days OR 1,025 hours of instruction, but they typically run from late July until late May and include two-week breaks for students at the end of the first, second, and third nine-week grading periods. Those two-week breaks may be used to provide special enrichment activities that are unavailable to students at other times during the school year, to provide focused tutorial and remedial opportunities to students who would benefit from them, to provide creative extracurricular activities to students, or to provide additional vacation opportunities for families.

The following models illustrate the possible structure of traditional and modified calendar options for the 2013-14 school year. They are provided for illustrative purposes only. In each model, students would not attend school on any color-coded date. The side-by-side comparison of those models summarizes the key differences between them. Please take just a moment to review these documents before answering the following questions about them:

[Model 1: Traditional Calendar with 185 Student Attendance Days](#)

[Model 2: Traditional Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days](#)

[Model 3: Modified Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days](#)

[Side-by-Side Comparison of 2013-14 School Calendar Models](#)

**\*Of the three school calendar models presented above, which ONE is MOST appealing to you?**

- Model 1: Traditional Calendar with 185 Student Attendance Days
- Model 2: Traditional Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days
- Model 3: Modified Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days

**\*Please describe what you like and dislike about the ONE school calendar model that is MOST appealing to you:**

**\*Of the three school calendar models presented above, which ONE is LEAST appealing to you?**

- Model 1: Traditional Calendar with 185 Student Attendance Days
- Model 2: Traditional Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days
- Model 3: Modified Calendar with 180 Student Attendance Days

## Parent Interest Inventory: Magnet School Options and School Calendar

**\*Please describe what you like and dislike about the ONE school calendar model that is LEAST appealing to you:**

**\*If my child's school followed a modified school calendar next year, then I would most likely:**

- keep my child enrolled at the school following a modified school calendar
- enroll my child at a different school following a traditional school calendar
- not decide about my child's enrollment until learning more about the additional opportunities available during the two-week breaks at the end of the first, second, and third nine-week grading periods

**\*If a modified calendar were not available at my child's current school but were available at another school in the county next year, then I would most likely:**

- keep my child enrolled at his or her current school and follow a traditional calendar
- enroll my child at the other school and follow a modified school calendar
- not decide about my child's enrollment until learning more about the additional opportunities available during the two-week breaks at the end of the first, second, and third nine-week grading periods

**Please provide any additional information you would like to share about school calendar options, including any questions you may have about them:**