

A. Benchmarking Districts

Baltimore County Public Schools (MD) is a county school system in Maryland of similar size and comparable demographics (by race/ethnicity and FARMS) to MCPS. BCPS conducted an audit of the district's large magnet program in 2013.

Houston Independent School District (TX) is a large urban district (202,000 students) with high percentages of Hispanic (62%) and FARMS (76%) students. HISD has received several national awards, including the 2013 Broad Prize and 2012 finalist. In recent years, the district conducted a study of its more than 100 magnet programs which include early college and college preparation programs, career magnets, international and STEM-themed programs, and gifted and talented programs.

Wake County Public School System (NC) serves an equal number of students with very similar demographics to MCPS. WCPSS has an extensive menu of magnet and choice programs and experienced challenges to the student assignment and equity plans within the past several years.

Hillsborough County Public Schools (FL) is the third largest county school system in Florida and the eighth largest in the country with 208,000 students. Hillsborough offers a range of school choice options including magnet programs, virtual programs, and school transfers. Included in its magnet program portfolio are gifted and talented and International Baccalaureate programs, among others.

Jefferson County Public Schools (KY) serves 101,000 students and offers a portfolio of choice including academically advanced programs and magnet programs for students outside of home zones. It also offers high school consortia for geographic areas.

Fairfax Public Schools (VA) has a total district enrollment of 186,000 students and is the largest district in Virginia. The student population is diverse with 40% White, 25% Hispanic, 19% Asian American, and 10% Black/African American. Almost 30,000 students receive English for Speakers of Other languages services.

Clark County School District (NV) is the fifth largest school district in the county serving 320,000 students. The district offers nationally-recognized magnet schools and career and technical academies, as well as online secondary school options. Almost half (46%) of the district's population is Hispanic/Latino, 26% is White, and 13% is Black/African American. CCSD offers a variety of language programs to serve English speakers and speakers of languages other than English through dual immersion programs as well as one-way world languages programs.