



Washoe County School District

Signatures & CTE

INSPIRED and CONNECTED

SIGNATURE ACADEMY PROGRAM GUIDE



Signature Academy

A stylized curricular approach, unique to each high school, which represents the school's identity, culture and intent; reflects local and national industry demand; integrates academic concepts with technical skill acquisition; and prepares students for college and career success.

What are Signature Academies?

Signature Academies are four-year themed high school programs that help students jump start their future. These courses of study provide a rigorous, applied curriculum that includes opportunities to earn college credit and industry certifications, gain 21st century skills, and develop connections between school and the real world. Themed programs are offered in the following focus areas:

<p>Agricultural Science & Natural Resources Areas of focus include animal science, horticulture, wildlife management, environmental management, and engineering. Schools: AACT High School, North Valleys High School</p>	<p>Business & Marketing Areas of focus include project management, entrepreneurial development, marketing and public relations. Schools: AACT High School</p>
<p>Engineering & Manufacturing Areas of focus include civil, environmental, mechanical, agricultural, manufacturing, energy technologies and pre-engineering preparation with a focus on science, technology & math. Schools: AACT High School, Galena High School, North Valleys High School, Reed High School, Sparks High School</p>	<p>Information Technology, Media & Communications Areas of focus include technical and computer sciences, graphic communication, animation, game development, web design, networking, journalism/public relations, and video production. Schools: AACT High School, Reno High School, Spanish Springs High School, Sparks High School</p>
<p>Global Studies Areas of focus include economics, world politics, foreign language, international diplomacy and fine arts. Schools: McQueen High School</p>	<p>Human Services Areas of focus include education, culinary/baking & nutrition, and human development. Schools: AACT High School, Hug High School, Reed High School</p>
<p>Health Sciences Areas of focus include pre-medicine, biomedical research, sports injuries, kinesiology and emergency medicine. Schools: AACT High School, Hug High School, Reed High School, Spanish Springs High School</p>	<p>International Baccalaureate Areas of focus include critical thinking, intercultural understanding and global engagement through a broad range of academics and experiences. Schools: Wooster High School</p>
<p>Performing Arts Areas of focus include the development of creativity and excellence through dance, instrumental music, choir and theater. Schools: Damonte Ranch High School</p>	<p><i>For more information about these programs, please visit:</i> www.washoeschools.net/SACTE <i>or email:</i> Signatures&CTE@washoeschools.net</p>

Who Can Participate in Signature Academies?

Signature Academies are for high school students who have an interest in the Academy theme. Students enter the program in 9th grade and complete a four-year program of study, which may include job shadow, internship, and advanced research opportunities. In each school, 75% of the available openings are dedicated to students who live in that school zone. Up to 25% of the available openings are reserved for students who live in other school zones.

How Do You Get Involved in Signature Academies?

Students wishing to participate in a Signature Academy must apply for admission in the fall of their 8th grade year, meet the minimum criteria, and be selected through a lottery process for the Academy of their choice. Applications will be available on-line within the application window at <http://washoeschools.net/Page/2256>. Specific dates can be found on the program insert included within this guide.

Signature Academy Success Criteria

Students applying for a Signature Academy program should be interested in the academy theme, committed to completing the 4-year program, and meet the minimum requirements for academic achievement, attendance, and self-management (based on the two years prior to admittance). These criteria are:

- ✓ Demonstration of “C” work or higher in grade-level coursework (2.0 overall GPA, no Fs)
- ✓ Attainment of grade level scores on standardized tests administered within one year of application (Science, Math, English/Language Arts)
- ✓ Regular school attendance (90%)
- ✓ Demonstration of appropriate self-management abilities (no suspensions, few discipline events)

Invitation to Attend a Signature Academy

Students meeting the entry requirements for consideration will be entered into a lottery for available spots in the Academy of their choice. Students chosen will be notified of the opportunity to attend and invited to accept an available spot.

Signature Understandings and Variance Requirements

All students receiving an invitation to attend a Signature Academy must agree to and sign the Understandings of Acceptance and Attendance in order to confirm their acceptance of an Academy spot. Additionally, students residing outside of the zone of attendance for the Academy to which they confirm acceptance must sign the Signature Variance form, agreeing to abide by the conditions associated with the variance, and may be required to meet with school administration before Academy acceptance is finalized. All students are provisionally accepted, dependent upon their final grades, attendance, credit accrual, and behavior for the semester prior to entering a Signature Academy.

Transportation

Transportation is only available for the two WCSD Signature Schools - Wooster High School and Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology (AACT). Students accepted to these schools can access busing from/to stops at the high school nearest their home, as well as Cold Springs Middle School and Pleasant Valley Elementary School. Parents must provide transportation to the bus pick up and drop off location, as schedules will not overlap to allow for door-to-door service.

Students accepted at all other WCSD Signature Academies are responsible for their own transportation to/from the school. No transportation will be provided.

Athletic Participation

Students accepted at the Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology (AACT) are eligible to participate in athletics at their zoned high school only.

Students accepted to all other schools are eligible to participate in athletics at that school. Students who do not reside in the school zone of the Signature Academy will enter on a Signature Variance which will allow them to participate in any NIAA sanctioned sport offered at that school (NAC 386.787) at any level other than varsity for the first year. In the event that the Signature Variance is revoked or a student opts to leave the Signature Academy during high school and returns to his/her zoned school, the student will lose athletic eligibility for the remainder of that school year and for an additional 180 school days (for any sport in which the student’s name appeared on a varsity NIAA roster NAC 386.786).

Attendance is a Privilege

The privilege of attending a Signature Academy is revocable and is extended for one year only. Enrollment will continue from year to year provided the student continues to meet the minimum acceptance criteria.



NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION: The Washoe County School District prohibits bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, sexual harassment, and/or discrimination based on an individual's actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, veterans or military status, marital status, political affiliation, or the presence of any sensory, physical or mental disability in any of its educational programs/activities, employment or employment opportunities, or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The District prohibits discrimination against any youth group listed in Title 36, as a patriotic society, (i.e. Boy Scouts of America) from access to public school facilities use. The District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



**Washoe County
School District**

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