

NCSSM has moved our summer programs to remote teaching and learning to help in the fight against COVID-19. [Learn more](#) ✕



Our Impact, NC and Beyond Our History



Innovation. It's in our school's DNA.

Our school's three founders — former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt Jr., senator and Duke University President Terry Sanford; and academician and author John Ehle —

envisioned an institution that would invest in the state's human and intellectual capital to build leadership and economic progress.

In 1980, during Governor Hunt's first administration, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics opened on the grounds of the former Watts Hospital in Durham with 150 high school juniors. It was the first school of its kind — a public, residential high school welcoming students from across the state to study a specialized curriculum emphasizing science and mathematics but also offering humanities courses, athletics, and extracurricular opportunities.

The founders' early vision has matured into a vital institution that models and advocates for excellence in public education. Eighteen similar schools have sprung from our model, in the U.S. and abroad.



A young school evolves

1978

The North Carolina General Assembly establishes North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to provide challenging educational opportunities for students with special interests and potential in the sciences and mathematics.

1980

The first class of 150 juniors enters the school, on the grounds of the former Watts Hospital in Durham.

1988

Together with peers at a handful of similar schools, North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics leaders helps found the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Math, Science and Technology, now the **National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools**.

1994

NCSSM offers its first distance education classes, broadcasting on public television channels.

2007

NCSSM becomes the 17th constituent institution of the **University of North Carolina system**.

2008

The first cohort, the Class of 2010, enters NCSSM Online, earning certificates of completion by supplementing their education at local high schools with virtual courses.

2011

NCSSM sets the Guinness World Record for largest food drive in a single location in 24 hours, collecting 559,885 pounds of food to benefit the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, which serves 34 counties in our state.

Our Impact

Our History

Faculty and Staff Emeriti

Impact Across North Carolina

Notable Alumni

NCSSM Entrepreneurs

NC STEM Hall of Fame



Sharron Johnson

Archives & Records

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From the Chancellor: Legislative Update

By J. Todd Roberts, NCSSM Chancellor The 2015 session of the North Carolina General Assembly adjourned earlier this week after...

October 02, 2015 [Legislative News](#) [Ncssm-Morganton](#)



Make history: Contribute to NCSSM archives project

By Steven Norton '08 Chair, Alumni Board Communications Committee Since the first class set foot on campus in 1980, more

October 06, 2015 [Ncssm History](#)





North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

Durham Campus

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Map

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