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## ABOUT NCSSM

**ACADEMICS**  
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## ABOUT NCSSM

- **Discover NCSSM**
- **History**
- **Leadership**
- **News & Events**
- **Points of Pride**

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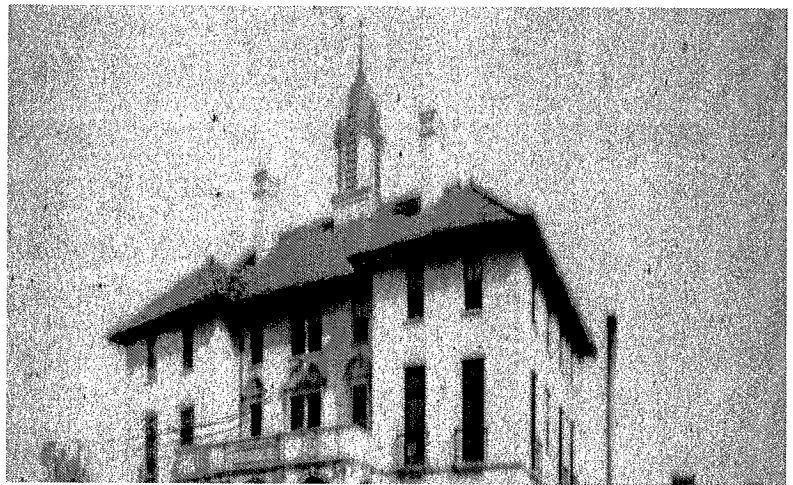
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## HISTORY



*NCSSM occupies the buildings and grounds of the former Watts Hospital, built in 1909 as a state-of-the-art facility by Durham tobacco magnate George W. Watts.*

## HISTORY

The school's three founders — former North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt Jr.; former North Carolina governor, 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.

## TIMELINE

- 1978 The North Carolina General Assembly establishes the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to provide challenging educational opportunities for students with special interests and potential in the sciences and mathematics.

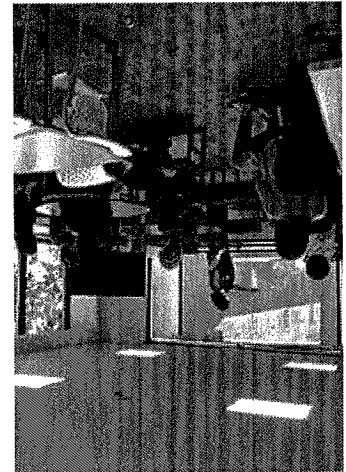
- 1980 First class of 150 juniors enters the school
- 1988 Together with peers at a handful of similar schools, NC School of Science and Math leaders helps found the National Consortium of Specialized Secondary Schools of Math, Science and Technology, now the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools

- 1994 NCSM offers its first distance education classes, broadcasting on public television channels
- 2007 NCSM becomes the 17th constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system
- 2008 First cohort, the Class of 2010, enters NCSM Online, earning their diplomas through virtual courses

- 2011 NCSM sets the Guinness world record for largest food drive in 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.

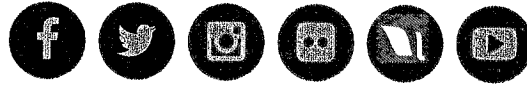
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