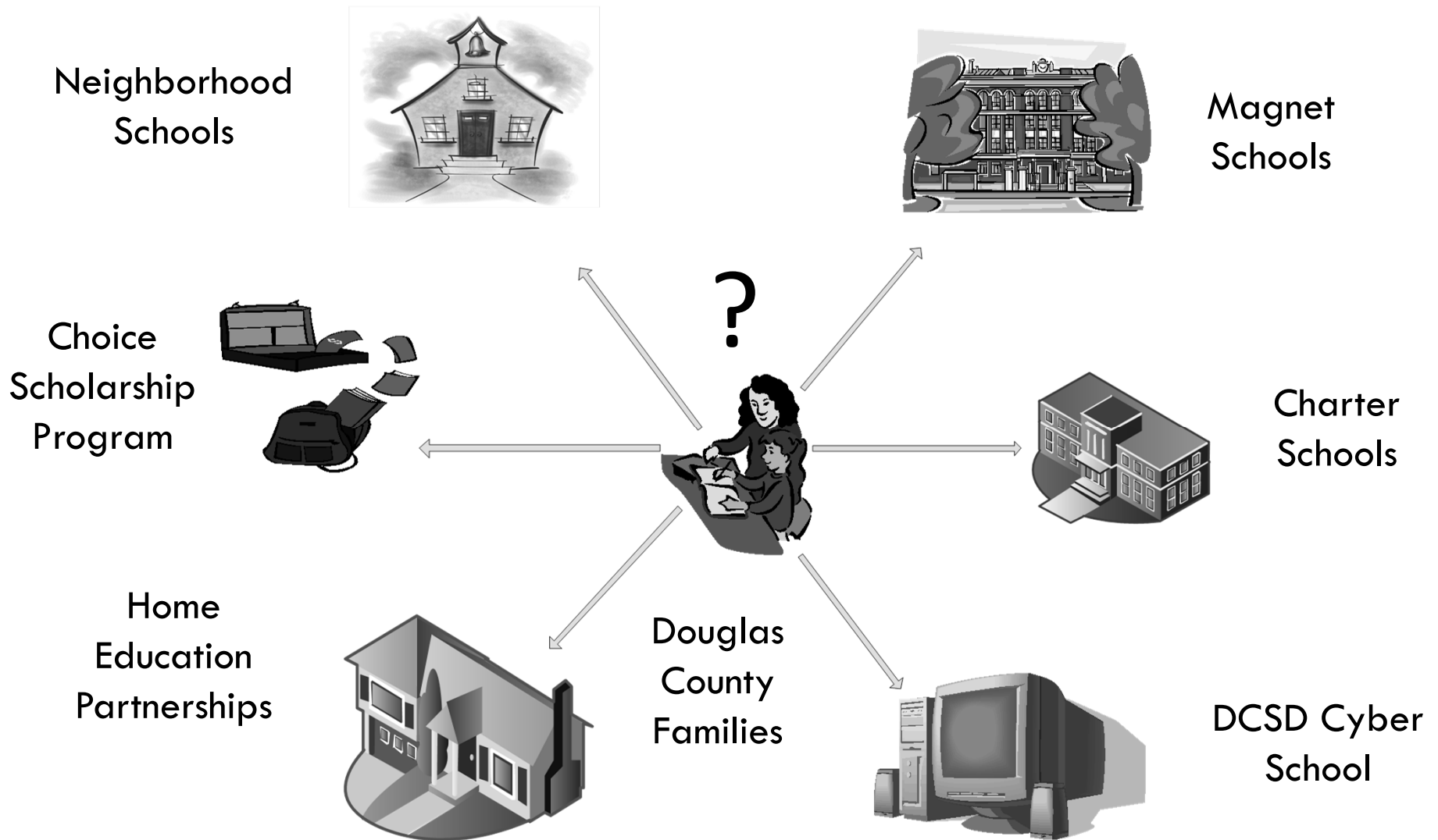


# DCSD provides families with a variety of educational opportunities



## Exhibit 7: Design Elements of the Choice Scholarship Program

Program Design Element	Description
<b>DCSD Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorized district charter school to serve Choice Scholarship students, with board of directors appointed by Board of Education and administrative staff appointed by superintendent</li> <li>• Offers efficient administrative structure for the district to maintain a connection to scholarship students, continue district accountability for student outcomes, control use of funding, and report student performance</li> </ul>
<b>DCSD Funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financed with state and local funding under Colorado's School Finance Act of 1994</li> <li>• Provides scholarships equaling 75% of per pupil funding; \$4,575 per student or actual tuition charged</li> <li>• Retains 25% of per pupil funding, or \$1,525 per student, to pay for administration, student assessment, and contingency reserves</li> <li>• Maintains contingency reserve for financial assistance to district neighborhood schools negatively affected by students leaving to attend private schools or for other uses as determined by the district</li> </ul>
<b>DCSD Assessment and Reporting Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administer Colorado and district assessments to Choice Scholarship students so their academic performance can be reported and compared to performance of students enrolled in other district schools</li> <li>• Require annual report to include a comparison of student outcomes between Choice Scholarship students and other DCSD students, as well as the financial effect of the program on the district</li> </ul>
<b>DCSD Payment Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue quarterly payments in the name of Choice Scholarship student's parent and send them to private school</li> <li>• Requires parents to restrictively endorse the scholarship check for sole purpose of paying tuition</li> </ul>
<b>Requirements for Student Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a resident of Douglas County</li> <li>• Must have attended a district neighborhood or charter school for previous school year</li> <li>• Must meet district attendance requirements and take statewide and district assessments</li> <li>• Must independently satisfy private school admission requirements</li> <li>• Family income not a criterion</li> </ul>
<b>Parental Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign contract describing rights and obligations of parent, student, and district</li> <li>• Release district from any liability arising from scholarship participation</li> <li>• Acknowledge that district would not create specialized programs at private schools and that students would receive the level of special education services provided by the private school</li> </ul>
<b>Private School Eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowed religious and nonreligious nonpublic schools located within and outside Douglas County to participate</li> <li>• Not required to change admission requirements; could make enrollment decisions based upon religious beliefs</li> </ul>
<b>Private School Application and Contract Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate educational program produces student achievement as strong as DCSD's neighborhood and charter schools</li> <li>• Demonstrate financial stability and that facilities are in compliance with building codes</li> <li>• Demonstrate school met district standards through accreditation by a recognized state or national accrediting organization</li> <li>• Provide information describing mission, educational goals, history, organizational structure, governance, curriculum, educational philosophy, facilities, and financial information necessary to calculate the actual tuition cost per pupil</li> <li>• Provide policies on employment (including evidence of background check requirements and nondiscrimination), enrollment, and student conduct and discipline</li> <li>• Agree to length of program participation, release of scholarship students for state and district assessments, providing information to comply with state and federal reporting requirements, and allowing Choice Scholarship students to leave school at any time without penalty</li> <li>• Agree to receive scholarship funds for time period that scholarship student was enrolled</li> <li>• Agree to offer waiver from required student attendance of religious services</li> </ul>

Source: Program Evaluation Division based on information from Douglas County School District.