

August 10, 2001

Education
Joseph H. Mathos, Deputy Superintendent

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF BOARD RULE: FINAL READING
6Gx13- 6A-1.46, MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, announced on July 11, 2001, its intention to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, at the meeting of August 22, 2001.

The proposed amendment will shorten the magnet recruitment period with an earlier application due date of January 31; establish a deadline of March 15, by which magnet programs/schools advise applicants of the application outcome; and establish a deadline of March 31, by which parents/guardians accept or decline admission into the applied for magnet program(s)/school(s). Beginning with applications received during the 2001-2002 magnet recruitment period and continuing through subsequent years, the proposed amendment will allow magnet programs/schools to remain competitive by establishing a timeframe that is relative to the timelines set forth by the many educational choices available to parents and students.

The Notice of Intended Action was published in the *Miami Daily Business Review* on July 16, 2001, posted in various places for public information, and mailed to various organizations representing persons affected by the amended rule and to individuals requesting notification.

The time to request a hearing or protest the adoption of this rule has elapsed.

In accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, this amended rule is presented to The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, for adoption and authorization to file the rule in the official records of The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida.

Attached are the Notice of Intended Action and the amended rule. Changes from the current rule are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~ words to be deleted.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade-County, Florida, adopt amended Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, and authorize the Superintendent to file the rule with The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, to be effective August 22, 2001.

MT:mf

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NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on July 11, 2001, its intention to amend School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, at its meeting of August 22, 2001.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the amendment is to shorten the magnet recruitment period with an earlier application due date; establish a deadline by which magnet programs/schools advise applicants of the application outcome; and establish a deadline by which parents/guardians accept or decline admission into the applied for magnet program(s)/school(s), allowing the district's magnet programs/schools to remain competitive within the many educational choices available to parents and students.

SUMMARY: As a result of the amendment, the application and recruitment process for magnet programs/schools will be changed, beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, to allow magnet programs to remain competitive within the many educational choices, public and otherwise, available to parents and students. The amendment will shorten the magnet recruitment period with an earlier application due date of January 31; establish a deadline of March 15, by which magnet programs/schools notify applicants of the application outcome; and establish a deadline of March 31, by which parents/guardians accept or decline admission into the applied for magnet program(s)/school(s). Additional changes to the Board Rule pertain to the renaming of the district to Miami-Dade County Public Schools, as well as minor changes deemed necessary for the purpose of providing clarity to the Board Rule.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED:
230.22(2); 230.23(22), F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: 230.23005(3)(b)

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF August 22, 2001, which begins at 1:00 p.m. in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided by Section 120.541(1), F.S., must do so in writing by August 6, 2001, to the Superintendent of Schools, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED RULE is available for inspection and copying at cost by the public in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Ms. Magaly C. Abrahante
Supervisor: Mr. Joseph H. Mathos
Date: June 27, 2001

Instruction—Elementary and Secondary**MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS**

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools has developed the magnet program/magnet school concept into an effective tool for balancing racial ratios, stemming declining enrollment, and improving the quality of education. Magnet programs/schools are unique educational programs operating within the district, for which transportation and other resources may be provided in order to make such educational experiences available to students beyond a single attendance boundary area.

Magnet programs/schools provide opportunities for that encourage academic excellence in basic areas of study, as well as for intensive educational experiences in areas in which students demonstrate unusual talent and/or interest. Additionally, magnet programs/schools offer students a chance to acquire or develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary to pursue post-secondary aspirations in highly specialized areas of interest. The recommendation of proposals to establish magnet programs/schools is a major administrative procedure which is to be used to further the district's desegregation goals.

Magnet Program

A magnet program may serve a specified number of students from more than one attendance area in a school which also provides a regular program to students in a specific attendance boundary area.

Magnet School

A magnet school is a school which may serve more than one attendance boundary area with the total school population participating in the identified magnet program. The magnet schools offer unique instructional programs related to the magnet theme to all students attending the school.

Types of Magnet Programs/Schools

The magnet programs/schools shall be keyed to the need for educational experiences for students with similar interests and diverse ethnic and language backgrounds. Course offerings will have special subject area or training focus not available in regular schools, and will, in most instances, require special equipment and materials, unique teaching techniques, strategies, and approaches. Such programs may include science/ mathematics/technology, humanities/writing, international studies, intensive foreign language study, the arts or other similar programs not generally concentrated in a regular school.

Guidelines and Procedures

The Superintendent of Schools shall establish administrative procedures and guidelines to address the following issues which are related to the planning, implementation, and evaluation of magnet programs/schools.

A. Planning

1. To determine the need for a magnet program/school, special consideration shall be given to the improvement of the school's racial balance as well as the enhancement of the school's curriculum through unique educational programs.
2. To determine the focus or theme of a magnet program/school, it is recommended that external surveys of the target population and community representatives be conducted. Recommendations of the school's administrative and instructional staff, and region and district staff should play a major role in the selection of the program theme/focus as well.
3. To determine the location of a magnet program/school, primary consideration must be given to the need to improve racial balance. Other factors which merit consideration are the development of a continuous curriculum sequence (K-12), the impact of the magnet on the feeder pattern or sending schools, renovation requirements, ~~as well as~~ student transportation costs, and travel time.
4. To determine the enrollment level needed to offer a viable program, staff, including representatives from the school, region, and district will establish both a minimum number and a maximum number of students to be served by each magnet program/school.
5. To further the district's efforts to balance student racial ratios, consideration should be given to establishing a system of mirror magnets. Mirror magnets are two schools of the same grade levels with the opposite racial composition which would offer the same magnet theme.

B. Implementation

1. Each magnet program/school will recruit students with the goal of achieving a Black/Non-Black student population proportionate to the Black/Non-Black student population districtwide. Students may be rejected for admission to a magnet program/school if their admission would not further this goal. Exceptions may be granted to further the desegregation of the receiving school's total population. However, no magnet program/school shall enroll more than 80% percent of any race.
2. Specific target schools for recruitment of students of the race which is underrepresented at the recruiting school will be established for each magnet program, but not districtwide magnet schools, by ~~Elementary and Secondary~~ Education in conjunction with School Operations. A school will ordinarily be designated as a target school for recruiting Black students if the school's Black student population exceeds the districtwide racial ratio of Black students. A school will ordinarily be designated as a target school for recruitment of Non-Black students if the school's Non-Black student population exceeds the districtwide racial ratio of Non-Black students. Recruitment should not result in a change in the sending school's population which will render that school's racial ratios at a negative variance with the districtwide racial ratios.
3. Recruitment for magnet programs/schools shall begin on or about the first day of October and conclude on or about the 15th day of ~~February~~ January. A series of promotional/informational events and materials will be planned and disseminated districtwide to coincide with this timeframe. Special attention will be given to recruiting students whose ethnicity or sex is underrepresented in the magnet program/school recruiting.
4. Magnet schools will recruit countywide and be subject to the 3% percent rule in Section B. 9. 10. b. (2) below.

5. Applications for admission to magnet programs/schools must be received by ~~the last day of February~~ January 31 of the school year preceding the year for which admission to the program/school is sought. ~~An exception to this requirement may be made on a school by school basis by the Division of Schools of Choice.~~ Application forms for magnet programs/schools shall be freely available at all appropriate Miami-Dade County Public Schools at least two weeks prior to the commencement of the application period and shall be submitted to the magnet program/school to which admission is sought.
- ~~6.~~ Magnet programs/schools will advise applicants who have met the application deadline of the application outcome on or before March 15. For applicants receiving an offer of acceptance, parents/guardians must accept or decline the admission offer into the applied for magnet program(s)/school(s) on or before March 31. Failure to respond by March 31 will render the outcome as a parental/guardian decline.
- ~~6.~~ 7. All Miami-Dade County students who are, or will be, enrolled in a grade level served by a magnet program/school may apply for admission. Various admission criteria have been established for entrance into each magnet program/school based on the specific theme or focus. Eligibility may be determined by such factors as skill, talent, academic performance, conduct, written essay, and interest.
- ~~7.~~ 8. Enhancement opportunities will be provided to prepare students, including at-risk, handicapped, and limited English proficient students for magnet program/school entry. These opportunities may include outreach, summer enrichment, and mentoring programs.
- ~~8.~~ 9. Students submitting an application for a talent magnet program/school will be evaluated on the specific criteria related to each art form during the required audition. Students will be ranked by their audition scores and placed on the basis of the program's/school's racial ratio goal.

9. 10. Qualified students will be admitted to non-talent magnet programs/schools on a random selection basis in the following order of priority:

a. Non-Recruited Race

- (1) Home school students of the majority race of the magnet program/school, up to the number of seats available for their race.
- (2) Feeder pattern students of the majority race of the magnet school, up to the number of seats available for their race. These students may be required to provide their own transportation.
- (3) Students from outside the feeder pattern. These students will provide their own transportation.

b. Recruited Race

- (1) Students who attend the target schools who are of the minority race of the school housing the magnet, up to the number of seats available for their race.
- (2) If active recruitment in the target schools fails to achieve the appropriate number of Black or Non-Black students depending on the need, eligible students of the recruited race will be admitted from schools other than target schools, provided that no more than 3% percent of the minority race at a non-target school may be admitted to all magnet programs/ schools combined. These students will be taken from schools outside the feeder pattern, the feeder pattern schools, or home school, in that order. Students from outside the feeder pattern may be required to provide their own transportation.

- (3) If the racial ratio goals are still not met, students of the non-recruited race will be admitted in the following order:
- (a) home school students;
 - (b) feeder pattern students;
 - (c) students from outside the feeder pattern. These students will provide their own transportation.

~~10.~~11. The name of only one multiple-birth sibling in each set of eligible applicants may be submitted for consideration in the random selection process. If that student is selected, his/her multiple-birth sibling(s) will also be permitted to attend the school. The process for admitting multiple-birth siblings will be conducted to ensure that single-birth students are not impacted negatively.

~~11.~~12. Exceptions to Section B. 4., 8. 9. and 9.10. may be considered on an annual basis by the Superintendent or designee to meet the individual needs of students.

~~12.~~13. Except as otherwise provided in this rule, transportation will be provided to students attending magnet programs/schools for those students living over two miles from the school in accordance with Florida Statutes.

C. Evaluation

1. Each year the ~~District Magnet Schools of~~ Choice Advisory Committee will review magnet ~~program's/schools'~~ enrollment reports for the purpose of assessing the degree to which recruitment goals have been met. If ~~needed~~ deemed necessary, the committee will recommend appropriate strategies.

2. An annual administrative review of existing magnet programs/schools shall be conducted to determine the impact of magnet programs/schools on racial balance, academic achievement, student attendance, and parent satisfaction.
3. Formal evaluations of magnet programs/schools may be authorized as resources permit and/or circumstances warrant such action.
4. In order to limit the overall effect of student loss, magnet programs should be considered for schools which have lost 10% percent or more of their students to magnet programs/schools.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2); 230.23(22), F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: ~~230.22; 230.23~~ 230.23005(3)(b), F.S.

History

New: 7-22-87

Amended: 5-25-88; 3-10-93; 7-9-97

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA