

Freddie Woodson, Deputy Superintendent  
School Operations

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED REPEAL OF SCHOOL BOARD RULE: INITIAL  
READING 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, HENRY S. WEST LABORATORY  
SCHOOL, A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL**

**PROPOSED REPEAL OF SCHOOL BOARD RULE: INITIAL  
READING 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS**

**PROPOSED PROMULGATION OF NEW SCHOOL BOARD  
RULE: INITIAL READING 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, MAGNET  
PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS**

**COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**

**LINK TO DISTRICT  
STRATEGIC PLAN: INCREASE PARENTAL CHOICE OPTIONS**

This item is submitted for consideration by the Board to repeal School Board Rules 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, Henry S. West Laboratory School, A Professional Development School, and School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, and to promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools. The proposed new Board Rule is necessary in order to:

1. align myriad choice options into a more streamlined enrollment process to facilitate parental involvement in selecting the best educational options for their children; and
2. align school choice options to the 3 Year Equity and Access Plan presented at the School Board workshop on February 7, 2008.

Attached are the Notices of Intended Action, the School Board Rules proposed for repeal, and the proposed new School Board Rule.

**C-100**

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act for the repeal of School Board Rules 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, Henry S. West Laboratory School, A Professional Development School, and School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, and to promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to:

1. repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, Henry S. West Laboratory School, A Professional Development School;
2. repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools; and
3. promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools.

MB/HB:msm

## NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on August 4, 2008, its intention to repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, Admission to Henry S. West Laboratory School, A Professional Development School, at its meeting of September 10, 2008.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** To repeal the existing Board Rule and incorporate the admission process to Henry S. West Laboratory School, A Professional Development School, into the proposed new rule for magnet programs/schools.

**SUMMARY:** To repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, Admission to Henry S. West Laboratory School, and include the admission process for this school in the proposed new Rule, 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools, which combines all types of choice programs, including magnet programs/schools, upon its adoption by the Board.

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

**LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC:** 230.23(6)(a) F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF September 10, 2008, 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 28, 2008, 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 REPEALED RULE is available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Mr. Freddie Woodson  
Date: July 23, 2008

Attendance**ADMISSION TO HENRY S. WEST LABORATORY SCHOOL, A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHOOL**

## I. Goal

Henry S. West Laboratory School (hereinafter "West Lab") is an elementary school of choice which serves students throughout the district, and has no designated attendance boundary. School Board Rule 6Gx13- 5A-1.022, establishes procedures to fill vacancies at West Lab based on a random selection process for admission. The use of recruitment and a random selection process will promote a diverse student enrollment which will include students with unique language needs or abilities, students with exceptional education needs, and students from differing socio-economic circumstances, and of different races, ethnicities, and genders.

## II. Procedures

A. Waiting Lists: Applicants who apply for admission to West Lab prior to August 31, 2002, and who have been placed on a waiting list (having not been admitted at the kindergarten level) shall maintain their positions on the waiting lists and remain eligible for admission to class openings as they occur on a yearly basis. No new names will be added to the waiting lists, and no new waiting lists will be created. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, applicants not admitted through the random selection process and not on a waiting list prior to August 31, 2002, must reapply as new applicants in subsequent school years in order to be considered for admission. As a result, after the 2007-2008 school year, no waiting list for West Lab will carry over to subsequent school years.

B. Early Registrants: Applicants who apply for admission to West Lab, but who have not yet been considered for admission (that is applicants for the kindergarten classes of 2002-2003 and beyond), need not reapply for admission to be eligible for the random selection process for kindergarten.

C. Application Procedures Effective March 13, 2002:

1. Each year, prior to October 1, the principal of West Lab will identify and report the number of seats available at the school by grade level. The principal

also shall report the overall diversity of the school.

2. One of the goals of West Lab is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, races, ethnicities, gender, or exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the school. To carry out this goal, the school shall annually assess the diversity of the school according to these criteria, develop appropriate recruitment goals and strategies, and be responsible for recruiting a diverse applicant pool for the school.
  3. Applications for admission to West Lab must be received between October 1 and January 31 of the school year preceding the year for which admission to the school is sought. The application must contain the applicant's home address. Failure to provide a correct address will render the application void. Parents are responsible for advising the school of any change of address. Application forms for West Lab shall be available at West Lab and the Office of Schools of Choice prior to the commencement of the application period and must be submitted to West Lab.
  4. Students on waiting lists as described in Section II. A. above shall be placed in any available seats prior to new applicants. Any sibling policy in effect at the time an applicant submitted an application will remain in effect throughout the period said application remains active.
  5. West Lab will advise applicants who have met the application deadline of the application outcome by U.S. Mail, sent to the address provided by the parent, on or about March 15. For applicants receiving an offer of acceptance, parents/guardians must accept or decline the admission offer into West Lab on or before the deadline established by the school. If the parent or guardian fails to respond by the deadline established by the school, the offer of admission will be treated as declined.
- D. Random Selection Process: For the purpose of promoting equitable access to and diverse enrollment at West Lab, the Office of Evaluation and Research Services shall assign all elementary school attendance boundary areas in the district

to one of four designated groups based on indicators of school performance and socio-economic circumstances. Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, new applicants to West Lab and early registrants (described in Section II. B. above) will be admitted on a random selection basis according to the following process:

1. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the first group as identified in paragraph D, with the first available seats given to applicants with siblings already attending West Lab.
2. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the second group as identified in paragraph D, with the first available seats given to applicants with siblings already attending West Lab.
3. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the third group as identified in paragraph D, with the first available seats given to applicants with siblings already attending West Lab.
4. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the fourth group as identified in paragraph D, with the first available seats given to applicants with siblings already attending West Lab.
5. In the event that applicants with siblings already attending West Lab exceed the twenty-five percent of available seats in any one of the four groups, then a random selection shall occur amongst the sibling applicants to fill the available seats in that group.
6. All children who are part of a multiple birth (twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.) will be admitted when one of them is selected for admission through the random selection process.

7. Students will only maintain their placement on the lists developed by the random selection process through the school year for which they applied. Such students may reapply for subsequent school years according to the provisions of Section II. C. above.
  8. If, after the random selection, any of the seats described in paragraphs one (1) through four (4) above remain available, additional applicants from the appropriate group shall be sought. Students who apply after the random selection may be admitted to available seats under paragraphs one (1) through four (4) above only if no other eligible and timely applicants remain in the relevant group. Such placements will be made on a first-come, first-serve basis.
  9. The West Lab admissions process and student enrollment data for the school will be reviewed annually by Education in conjunction with School Operations. If the admission process described above fails to achieve a diverse student enrollment for two or more years, additional school or student characteristics may be weighted in the random selection process.
- E. Transportation: Inasmuch as parents choose to have their children attend West Lab instead of the school serving their regular attendance zones, to which transportation would be provided as required by law, no transportation services are provided to West Lab.

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

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.23(6)(a) F.S.

History:

New: 3-13-02

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

## NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on August 4, 2008, its intention to repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, at its meeting of September 10, 2008.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** To repeal the existing Board Rule to better address the functions for implementing effective magnet programs/schools into the proposed new rule.

**SUMMARY:** To repeal School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.46, Magnet Programs/Schools, and promulgate a new Rule, 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools, which inclusively delineates types of magnet programs/schools and defines processes for establishing new magnet programs/schools, student selection and enrollment, and program reviews.

**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), F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF September 10, 2008, 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 28, 2008, 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 REPEALED RULE is available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Mr. Freddie Woodson  
Date: July 23, 2008



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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has developed the magnet program/school concept into an effective tool to broaden public school choice, stem declining enrollment, improve the quality of education, and promote diverse student enrollments. 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. Except as otherwise noted in this rule, transportation is limited to students residing in designated transportation zones for each magnet program/school.

Magnet programs/schools provide opportunities that encourage academic excellence in basic areas of study as well as 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. Another goal of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, gender, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the magnet program/school.

**I. Types of Magnet Programs/Schools**

Magnet programs/schools shall be keyed to the need for educational experiences for students with similar interests and diverse backgrounds. Course offerings have special subject area or training focus not available in regular schools, and, 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. Types of magnet programs/schools include:

- A. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):** A magnet program serves a specified number of students from more than one attendance area in a school which also provides a regular program to students from a specific attendance boundary area. Students from the magnet and regular program are provided opportunities to interact with each other to the extent possible.

- B. Magnet School (Schoolwide):** Magnet schools offer unique instructional programs related to the magnet theme to all students attending the school.
1. **Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary:** A magnet school with an attendance boundary is a school which serves all students from its designated attendance boundary area as well as a specified number of students from schools throughout the district.
  2. **Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary:** A magnet school without an attendance boundary is a school which serves eligible students throughout the district, and has no designated attendance boundary of its own.
  3. **Districtwide Magnet School:** A districtwide magnet school is a school which serves eligible students throughout the district, and has no designated attendance boundary of its own. All eligible students admitted to districtwide magnets and who live in excess of two miles from the school will be provided transportation in accordance with Florida Statutes.

## II. 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 public interest in particular magnet themes, the need to stem declining enrollment, the need to improve the quality of education, and the need to promote diverse student enrollments.
2. To determine the focus or theme of a magnet program/school, it is recommended that external surveys of the relevant populations and community representatives be conducted. Recommendations of the school's administrative and instructional staff, and region and district staffs 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, consideration must be given to the need to ensure that students from diverse backgrounds have the opportunity to attend specialized programs/schools. 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, 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.

#### **B. Implementation**

1. Each magnet program/school will recruit students with the goal of achieving a broadly diverse student population reflective of the diversity in the student population districtwide, as set forth in this rule.
2. For each magnet program/school, other than magnet schools without an attendance boundary and districtwide magnet schools, a transportation zone will be designated by Education in conjunction with School Operations. Each magnet program's/school's transportation zone will include a representative number of elementary schools from each group, as identified in paragraph 10. All students admitted to a magnet program/school, residing in the designated transportation zone for the magnet program/school, and in excess of two miles from the magnet program/school site, will be eligible to receive transportation in accordance with Florida Statutes.
3. Each year, prior to the beginning of the recruitment period on October 1, each magnet program/school principal will identify and report the number of magnet program/school seats available at the magnet program/school by grade level. The principal shall also report the overall diversity of the school and the

magnet program and be responsible for attempting to promote diversity, to the extent practicable, within the magnet program/school.

4. Recruitment for magnet programs/schools shall begin on or about the first day of October and conclude on or about the 15th day of January. A series of promotional/informational events and materials will be planned and disseminated districtwide to coincide with this timeframe.
5. One of the goals of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, gender, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the magnet program/school. To carry out this goal, each magnet program/school shall annually assess the diversity of the school according to these criteria, develop appropriate recruitment goals and strategies, and be responsible for recruiting a diverse applicant pool for its program/school.
6. Applications for admission to magnet programs/schools must be received by January 31 of the school year preceding the year for which admission to the program/school is sought. Application forms for magnet programs/schools shall be freely available at all Miami-Dade County Public Schools prior to the commencement of the application period and shall be submitted to the magnet program/school to which admission is sought.
7. 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.
8. 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. Eligibility criteria must be related to the educational needs of the magnet program/school and must not create unnecessary barriers to equitable access. Education in conjunction with School Operations will review eligibility criteria annually.

9. 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.
10. For the purpose of promoting equitable access to and diverse enrollments in magnet programs/schools, the Office of Evaluation and Research shall divide all elementary school attendance boundary areas in the district into one of four designated groups based on indicators of school performance and socio-economic circumstances.
11. Eligible students will be admitted to non-talent magnet programs/schools on a random selection basis according to the following process:
  - a. **Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):**
    1. Twenty percent of available seats shall be filled with students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in the school's attendance boundary area, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program;
    2. Twenty percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the first group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program;

3. Twenty percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the second group as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program;
4. Twenty percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the third group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program; and
5. Twenty percent of the available seats shall be filled with students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the fourth group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program.

**b. Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):**

1. All students residing in the attendance boundary area of the magnet school;
2. Twenty-five percent of the remaining available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the first group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school;

3. Twenty-five percent of the remaining available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the second group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school;
4. Twenty-five percent of the remaining available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the third group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school; and
5. Twenty-five percent of the remaining available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the fourth group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school;

**c. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):** Each magnet school without an attendance boundary shall have a magnet priority service zone. Education in conjunction with School Operations will establish a priority service zone for each magnet school without an attendance boundary. A magnet priority service zone weight will be designated by Education in conjunction with School Operations.

Eligible applicants seeking admission to a magnet school without an attendance boundary and who reside within that magnet's priority service zone will receive a priority service zone weight. Students residing within the magnet priority service zone in excess of

two miles from the magnet school will receive transportation in accordance with Florida Statutes.

1. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the first group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school and to eligible applicants residing within the designated magnet priority service zone;
2. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the second group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school and to eligible applicants residing within the designated magnet priority service zone;
3. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the third group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school and to eligible applicants residing within the designated magnet priority service zone; and
4. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the fourth group, as identified in



paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school and to eligible applicants residing within the designated magnet priority service zone.

**d. Districtwide Magnet:**

1. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the first group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school;
2. Twenty-five percent of available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the second group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school;
3. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the third group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school; and
4. Twenty-five percent of the available seats shall be filled by students randomly selected from applicants residing in attendance boundary areas of elementary schools in the fourth group, as identified in paragraph 10, with priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet school.

12. Student recruiting efforts shall continue in all magnet programs/schools until all available seats, within each individual group, are filled.
13. 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 and will be ranked and placed on the basis of their audition scores. Magnet program/school principals shall be responsible for selecting a diverse panel of adjudicators.
14. Student enrollment will be reviewed annually by Education in conjunction with School Operations. If the recruitment strategies and the assignment methods described above fail to achieve diverse student enrollments at magnet programs/schools for two or more years, additional school or student characteristics may be weighted in the random selection process for that program/school. Race, ethnicity, and gender will not be used as factors.

#### C. Evaluation

1. Each year the Schools of Choice Advisory Committee will review magnet application and enrollment data for the purpose of assessing the degree to which recruitment goals have been met. If deemed necessary, the Committee will recommend appropriate strategies.
2. Each year the Superintendent or his/her designee will review magnet application and enrollment data. The degree to which recruitment goals are met shall be a component of each magnet principal's yearly job targets.
3. An annual administrative review of existing magnet programs/schools shall be conducted by Education in conjunction with School Operations to determine the impact of magnet programs/schools on the diversity of student enrollment, academic achievement, and student attendance.
4. Formal evaluations of magnet programs/schools may be authorized as resources permit and/or circumstances warrant such action.

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

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

History

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

New: 7-22-87

Amended: 5-25-88; 3-10-93; 7-9-97; 8-22-01; 1-16-02

## NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on August 4, 2008, its intention to promulgate new School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools, at its meeting of September 10, 2008.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** To promulgate a new Board Rule that integrates and streamlines various choice options.

**SUMMARY:** To promulgate School Board Rule 6Gx13- 6A-1.461, Magnet Programs/Schools, that integrates and streamlines processes for multiple choice options, including magnet programs/schools, Henry S. West Laboratory School, and the other choice programs/schools. This new Rule defines inclusively delineates types of magnet programs/schools and defines processes for establishing new magnet programs/schools, student selection and enrollment, and program reviews.

**SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED:** 1001.41(1),(2); 1001.42(23); 1001.43(10) F.S.

**LAW IMPLEMENTED, INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC:** 1001.41(6); 1001.43(3),(8); 1001.42(4),(a); 1001.32(2); 1002.31, F.S.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING OF September 10, 2008, 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 28, 2008, 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 PROMULGATED NEW RULE is available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Mr. Freddie Woodson  
Date: July 23, 2008

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

Miami-Dade County Public Schools has developed the magnet program/school concept into an effective tool to broaden public school choice, stem declining enrollment, mitigate overcrowding, help comply with federal and state-mandated public school choice provisions, accommodate parent/student interest, improve the quality of education, and promote diverse student enrollments. Magnet programs/schools are unique educational programs operating within the district, for which additional resources and/or ancillary services may be provided in order to help make such educational experiences available to students beyond a single attendance boundary area. Part and parcel to the purpose of magnet programs/schools is the broad replication and expansion of high quality programs, particularly those which are academically successful.

Magnet programs/schools provide opportunities that encourage academic excellence in basic areas of study as well as intensive educational experiences in areas in which students demonstrate unusual talent, interest, and/or aspiration. In addition, 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. Another goal of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, gender, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the magnet program/school.

Magnet programs/schools are classified under a broad definition of school choice whereby an application/random selection or audition process is utilized to select and admit students. Application to magnet programs/schools is voluntary and no other transfer provisions, other than the admission processes delineated in this Rule, may be utilized to access magnet programs/schools. The overarching purpose of magnet programs/schools is to provide an optional educational environment for students that is/are pedagogically and/or geographically distinct from that which is offered in their assigned home school. In addition to unique curricular offerings, magnet programs/schools may be also be conceptually-based, under such models as commuter schools, professional development/laboratory schools, single gender schools, etc. Prior to October 1st of each year, the Superintendent of Schools (or designee) will transmit to the School Board the list of all magnet programs/schools that are operational in the district and for which this Rule applies.

**I. Types of Magnet Programs/Schools**

- A. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):** A magnet program affords a unique instructional program or setting to a specified number of students from more than one attendance area in a school which also provides a regular program to students from a specific attendance

boundary. Students from both the magnet and the regular program are provided opportunities to interact with each other to the extent possible.

**B. Magnet School (Schoolwide):** A magnet school offers unique instructional programs or settings to all students attending the school and are categorized as follows:

1. **Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary:** A magnet school with an attendance boundary is a school which serves all students from its designated attendance boundary as well as a specified number of students from schools throughout the district.
2. **Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary:** A magnet school without an attendance boundary is a school which serves eligible students throughout the district, and which has no designated attendance boundary of its own.

## II. 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 following:
  - a) public interest in particular magnet themes;
  - b) the need to stem declining enrollment or mitigate overcrowding;
  - c) improving the quality of education through proven curricular and instructional approaches;
  - d) expanding public school choice options for parents/guardians, inclusive of commuter and workplace magnet schools;
  - e) ensuring equitable access for all students;
  - f) budgetary constraints;
  - g) availability of support, fiscal or otherwise, from outside sources (e.g. municipalities, grants, etc.); and/or
  - h) enhancing diverse student enrollments.
2. Proposals for new magnet programs/schools shall be annually considered by the Equity and Access Administrative Council. Recommendations of the school's administrative and instructional

staff, and regional and district staffs should play a major role in the selection of the program's theme/focus, as well.

3. To determine the enrollment level needed to offer a viable program, staff, including representatives from the school, corresponding regional center(s), and district will establish both a minimum number and a maximum number of students to be served by each magnet program/school. Said numbers will be published on an annual basis.

## **B. Implementation**

School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department) will conduct countywide marketing and recruitment activities beginning in the fall of each school year with the goal of achieving a broadly diverse student population reflective of the diversity in the student population district-wide.

1. Each magnet program/school will conduct marketing and recruitment activities specific to their program's/school's theme or purpose, including but not limited to:
  - a) mailed brochures;
  - b) automated phone messages;
  - c) open houses and school tours; and
  - d) presentations at feeder schools.
2. Annually, prior to the beginning of the recruitment period on October 1st, each magnet program/school principal, in conjunction with the corresponding regional center(s) and School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department), will identify the number of magnet program/school seats available at the magnet program/school by grade level. The overall diversity of the magnet program/school will be reviewed by School Choice and Parental Options following the initial Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reporting week in the fall.
3. Recruitment for magnet programs/schools for the subsequent school year shall begin on or about the first day of October and conclude on or about the 15th day of January. A series of promotional/informational events and materials will be planned and disseminated district-wide to coincide with this timeframe.
4. One of the goals of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, gender, and exceptional

education needs are underrepresented in the magnet program/school. Another goal is to ensure that students have adequate opportunities to enroll in educational programs which may not be available in their boundary school. In order to meet these goals, each school, in conjunction with School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department), will develop targeted recruitment goals and strategies consistent with the goals of the Equity and Access Plan.

5. School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department), in conjunction with the Information Technology Services (or comparable district office/department), will process all magnet applications centrally via an on-line application process. Parents/Guardians may also mail or hand-deliver paper applications to School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department) prior to the deadline.
6. Applications for admission to magnet programs/schools must be received by January 15th of the school year preceding the year for which admission to the program/school is sought. Application forms for magnet programs/schools shall be freely available at all Miami-Dade County Public Schools and through the district's website prior to the commencement of the application period.
7. Applicants who are part of a multiple birth (twins, triplets, quadruplets, etc.) will be admitted when one of them is selected for admission to the same magnet program/school through the random selection process. However, each of the multiple birth siblings must meet the eligibility requirements for the selected magnet program/school.
8. Magnet programs/schools will advise applicants who have met the application deadline of the application outcome on or about March 15th. 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 31st. Failure to respond by March 31st shall be considered as a rejection of the offer of admission to the program.
9. Students who are eligible to be enrolled in a Miami-Dade County Public School, 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 appropriate to the specific theme or focus. Eligibility may be determined by, but are not limited to, such factors as skill, talent, academic performance, conduct, written



essay, and interest. However, no single factor may be used to exclude a student from access in the program. At no time may a single standardized test score, such as the FCAT, be the sole determination of eligibility. Eligibility criteria must be related to the educational needs of the magnet program/school and must not create unnecessary barriers to equitable access. School Operations, in conjunction with Curriculum and Assessment (or comparable district offices/departments), will review and approve eligibility criteria annually. Entrance level criteria which differs from the approved factors must be authorized by the Superintendent's designee. Principals must submit the entrance level criteria for magnet programs/schools School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department), no later than June 30th and make such criteria readily available to parents/guardians for review when applying. Applications to magnet programs/schools will become void upon the conclusion of the school year in which they were submitted.

10. Enhancement opportunities may be provided to prepare students, including at-risk, handicapped, and limited English proficient students for magnet program/school entry. These opportunities may include internships, outreach, summer enrichment, and mentoring programs.
11. Notwithstanding the admission processes delineated within this Rule, the Superintendent (or Superintendent's designee) may override any aspect of said processes when determined by the District to be in the best interest of the student.
12. Upon submission of a completed application by the designated deadline and fulfillment of all applicable eligibility requirements, students will be admitted to non-talent magnet programs/schools on a random selection basis according to the following process:
  - a. **Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):**
    - i. Up to 50 percent, but not less than 25 percent, of the available seats at entry level of the magnet program shall be randomly selected from eligible applicants residing in the school's attendance boundary areas with admission guaranteed to eligible applicants with older siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the older sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. An additional priority weight may be added to help fulfill Equity and

Access Plan goals.

- ii. The remaining seats will be randomly filled with eligible students outside of the school's attendance boundary with admission guaranteed to eligible applicants with older siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the older sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission
- iii. Application for seats open in grade levels other than the designated entry grade will be assigned through the random selection process. Seats which become available beyond the entry level will be guaranteed to eligible applicants with older siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the older sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. A priority weight will be allocated for successful matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme.

**b. Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):**

- i. Students residing in the attendance boundary area of the magnet school will be assigned first.
- ii. The remaining available seats will be filled by eligible applicants residing outside of the school's attendance boundary, with admission guaranteed to eligible applicants with older siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the older sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. Priority weights may be added for matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme and/or in order to help fulfill Equity and Access Plan goals, at such time as those goals are established by the District.
- iii. In order to maintain the designation as a schoolwide magnet with an attendance boundary, a minimum of 25 percent of the magnet program/school population must be filled by eligible students from outside the school's attendance boundary. If the 25 percent threshold is not achievable, the magnet school may be re-designated as a magnet program serving a subset of the school population and budgeted accordingly.

- c. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):**
- i. Eligible applicants seeking admission to a magnet school without an attendance boundary will be selected through a random selection process.
  - ii. Admission will be guaranteed to eligible applicants with older siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the older sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. Priority weights may be added for matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme and/or in order to help fulfill Equity and Access Plan goals.
13. Student recruitment efforts shall continue in magnet programs/schools until all available seats are filled.
14. 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 and will be ranked and placed on the basis of their audition scores. Magnet program/school principals, in conjunction with School Operations (or comparable district office/department), shall be responsible for selecting a diverse panel of adjudicators. A minimum of one adjudicator may be designated at auditions at the discretion of the Superintendent's designee. Selection of students for talent programs will be based solely on the specific talent aligned to each magnet program strand. Academic achievement may not be used as the sole determination in the selection process, but may be a factor for continuation enrollment in the program.

### **C. Evaluation**

1. Each year, School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable district office/department) will review magnet application and enrollment data for the purpose of assessing the degree to which recruitment goals have been met. If deemed necessary, the Superintendent's designee will recommend appropriate strategies and/or modifications.
2. Each year the Superintendent's designee will review magnet application and enrollment data.
3. An annual administrative review of existing magnet

programs/schools shall be conducted by the Equity and Access Administrative Council and the Assessment and Data Analysis (or comparable district offices/departments) to determine the impact of magnet programs/schools on the diversity of student enrollment, academic achievement, and student attendance.

4. Formal evaluations of magnet programs/schools may be authorized as resources permit and/or circumstances warrant such action.

Specific Authority: 1001.41(1),(2); 1001.42(23); 1001.43(10) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 1001.41(6); 1001.43(3),(8); 1001.42(4),(a); 1001.32(2); 1002.31, F.S.

**History:** THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

New: