

Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: INITIAL **READING: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL BOARD
POLICY 2370, MAGNET PROGRAMS / SCHOOLS**

COMMITTEE: **ACADEMICS, EVALUATION AND TECHNOLOGY**

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: **RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

Consistent with the Board's statutory responsibility to periodically review and update its policies to conform to legislative changes and District practices, this item requests authorization for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking to adopt proposed amendments to Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*.

The proposed amendments to School Board Policy 2370 have been aligned with the most recent statutory requirements and to include descriptions of the various types of magnet programs and schools currently utilized by the District, as well as to revise the operational practices for these programs and schools.

Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, is proposed to clarify and update to reflect current operational procedures for application and selection of students, as well as operational procedures pertaining to magnet programs /schools. Measures are also proposed to attempt to reduce minority group isolation.

Attached is the Notice of Intended Action and the proposed policy amendments. Changes from the current policy are indicated by underscoring words to be added and ~~striking through~~ words to be deleted.

Authorization of the Board is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the adoption of proposed amendments to Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to amend School Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, to reflect current District practices with regard to application and selection of students, as well as operational procedures pertaining to magnet programs /schools.

C-100

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on September 6, 2017, its intention to amend School Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, at its meeting of October 11, 2017.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To amend Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, to reflect current District practices with regard to application and selection of students, as well as operational procedures pertaining to magnet programs /schools. Measures are also proposed to attempt to reduce minority group isolation.

SUMMARY: The proposed amendments to School Board Policy 2370 have been aligned with the most recent statutory requirements and to include descriptions of the various types of magnet programs and schools currently utilized by the District, as well as to revise the operational practices for these programs and schools. Measures are also proposed to attempt to reduce minority group isolation.

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: F.S. 1001.32(2); 1001.41(1), (2), (3), (6); 1001.42(4),(a); 1001.43(8), 1002.31

LAWS IMPLEMENTED INTERPRETED, OR MADE SPECIFIC: F.S.1001.41(6); 1001.42(4),(a)

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING of October 11, 2017, 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 October 2, 2017 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 based (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).

A COPY OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED POLICY is available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 102, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.

Originator: Ms. Marie Izquierdo
Date: August 23, 2017

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MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS

2 Magnet programs/schools broaden public school choice, stem declining enrollment,
3 mitigate overcrowding, help comply with Federal and State-mandated public school
4 choice provisions, accommodate parent/student interest, improve the quality of
5 education, and promote diverse student enrollments. Magnet programs/schools are
6 unique educational programs operating within the District, for which additional
7 resources and/or ancillary services may be provided in order to help make such
8 educational experiences available to students beyond a single attendance boundary
9 area.

10 Magnet programs/schools encourage academic excellence in basic areas of study as
11 well as intensive educational experiences in areas in which students demonstrate
12 unusual talent, interest, and/or aspiration. In addition, magnet programs/schools
13 offer students a chance to acquire or develop the skills, knowledge, and
14 understanding necessary to pursue post-secondary aspirations in highly specialized
15 areas of interest. Another goal of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students
16 whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race,
17 ethnicity, gender, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the
18 magnet program/school.

19 Magnet programs/schools are classified under a broad definition of school choice in
20 which an application/random selection or audition process is used to select and
21 admit students. Application to magnet programs/schools is voluntary and no other
22 transfer provisions, other than the admission processes in this policy, may be used
23 to access magnet programs/schools.

24 The overarching purpose of magnet programs/schools is to provide an optional
25 educational environment for students that is/are pedagogically and/or
26 geographically distinct from what is offered in their assigned home school. In
27 addition to unique curricular offerings, magnet programs/schools may be also be
28 conceptually-based, under such models as commuter schools, professional
29 development/laboratory schools, single gender schools, etc. Prior to October 1st of
30 each year, the Superintendent will transmit to the School Board the list of all
31 magnet programs/schools that are operational in the District and to which this
32 policy applies.

1 **Types of Magnet Programs/Schools**

2 A. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School): A magnet program
3 affords a unique instructional program or setting to a specified
4 number of students from more than one attendance area in a school
5 which also provides a regular program to students from a specific
6 attendance boundary. Students from both the magnet and the
7 regular program are provided opportunities to interact with each
8 other to the extent possible.

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

12 1. Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary: A magnet
13 school with an attendance boundary is a school which serves
14 all students from its designated attendance boundary as well
15 as a specified number of students from schools throughout
16 the District.

17 2. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary: A magnet
18 school without an attendance boundary is a school which
19 serves eligible students throughout the District, and which
20 has no designated attendance boundary of its own.

21 **Guidelines and Procedures**

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

25 A. Planning

26 1. To determine the need for a magnet program/school, special
27 consideration shall be given to the following:

28 a. public interest in particular magnet themes;

29 b. the need to stem declining enrollment or mitigate
30 overcrowding;

31 c. improving the quality of education through proven
32 curricular and instructional approaches;

- 1 d. expanding public school choice options for
2 parents/guardians, including commuter and
3 workplace magnet schools;
- 4 e. ensuring equitable access for all students;
- 5 f. budgetary constraints;
- 6 g. availability of support, fiscal or otherwise, from outside
7 sources (e.g. municipalities, grants, etc.); and/or
- 8 h. enhancing diverse student enrollments.

9 2. Proposals for new magnet programs/schools shall be
10 annually considered by the Superintendent.
11 Recommendations by the school's administrative and
12 instructional staff, Region and District, staff should play a
13 major role in the selection of the program's theme/focus.

14 3. To determine the enrollment level needed to offer a viable
15 program, staff, including representatives from the school,
16 corresponding Region and District will establish both a
17 minimum number and a maximum number of students to be
18 served by each magnet program/school.

19 B. Implementation

20 School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable District
21 office/department) will conduct countywide marketing and
22 recruitment activities ~~beginning in the fall of each school year~~ with
23 the goal of achieving a broadly diverse student population reflective
24 of the diversity in the student population District-wide.
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26 1. Each magnet program/school will conduct marketing and
27 recruitment activities specific to their program's/school's
28 theme or purpose, including but not limited to:

29 a. mailed brochures;

30 b. automated phone messages;

31 c. open houses and school tours; ~~and~~

32 d. presentations at feeder schools; and

33 e. social/digital media outreach.

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2. ~~Annually, prior to the beginning of the recruitment period on October 1st,~~ each magnet program/school principal, in conjunction with the corresponding ~~R~~egion 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 annually by the school, corresponding Region, and School Choice and Parental Options office/department utilizing following the initial Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reporting week in the fall.
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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 by each school and the School Choice and Parental Options office/department.
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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 annually develop targeted recruitment goals and strategies.
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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.

- 1 6. Applications and all required support documentation for
2 admission to magnet programs/schools must be received by
3 January 15th of the school year preceding the year for which
4 admission to the program/school is sought. Application
5 forms for magnet programs/schools shall be freely available
6 at all District schools and through the District's website at
7 the commencement of the application period.
- 8 7. Applicants who are part of a multiple birth (twins, triplets,
9 quadruplets, etc.) will be admitted when one of them is
10 selected for admission to the same magnet program/school
11 through the random selection process. However, each of the
12 multiple birth siblings must meet the eligibility requirements
13 for the selected magnet program/school. This does not
14 pertain to audition-based magnet programs.
- 15 8. Magnet programs/schools through the School Choice and
16 Parental Options office/department will advise applicants
17 who have met the application deadline of the initial
18 application outcome on or about March 15th. For applicants
19 receiving an offer of acceptance, parents/guardians must
20 accept or decline the admission offer into the applied for
21 magnet program(s)/school(s) on or before March 31st.
22 Failure to respond by March 31st shall be considered a
23 rejection of the offer of admission to the program.

- 1 9. Students who are eligible to be enrolled in a District school,
2 or will be enrolled in a grade level served by a magnet
3 program/school, may apply for admission. Various
4 admission criteria have been established for entrance into
5 each magnet program/school appropriate to the specific
6 theme or focus.

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8 Eligibility may be determined by, but are not limited to, such
9 factors as skill, talent, academic performance, conduct,
10 written essay, and interest. However, no single factor may be
11 used to exclude a student from access to a program. At no
12 time may a single standardized test score, ~~such as the FCAT,~~
13 be the sole determination of eligibility.

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15 Eligibility criteria must be related to the educational needs of
16 the magnet program/school and must not create unnecessary
17 barriers to equitable access. The School Choice and Parental
18 Options office/department will facilitate, along with School
19 Operations, Academics, Curriculum & Instruction, and
20 Assessment (or comparable District offices/departments), a
21 ~~will~~ review and approve eligibility criteria annually. Entrance
22 level criteria which differs from the approved factors must be
23 authorized by the Superintendent or designated
24 office/department.

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26 Principals must annually review and submit any requested
27 revisions to the entrance level criteria for magnet
28 programs/schools to School Choice and Parental Options (or
29 comparable District office/department), ~~no later than~~
30 ~~February 28th~~ and upon approval make such criteria readily
31 available to parents/guardians for review when applying.
32 Applications to magnet programs/schools will become void
33 upon the conclusion of the ~~school~~ calendar year after the
34 beginning of the school year for in which they were
35 submitted.

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37 Upon District (School Choice and Parental Options or
38 appropriate District office/department) approval, magnet
39 program/schools may establish goals and benchmarks which
40 students must meet in order to remain eligible and enrolled in
41 the magnet program/school.

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43 10. Enhancement opportunities may be provided to prepare
44 students, including at-risk, handicapped, underserved, and

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1 limited English proficient students for magnet
2 program/school entry. These opportunities may include
3 internships, outreach, summer enrichment, and mentoring
4 programs.

5 11. Notwithstanding the admission processes in this policy, the
6 Superintendent may override any of these processes when
7 determined by the District to be in the best interest of a
8 student or a group of students.

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10 12. Once students have met eligibility, Admission into programs
11 is based on space availability and priorities for admission will
12 be applied for random selection programs in the following
13 order: Federal mandate, State law (e.g., military), Board policy
14 (e.g., sibling), other (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding).

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16 13. In the event that the number of eligible applicants exceeds
17 the number of available seats (e.g., more siblings than seats
18 available) a random selection process will be used.

19 14. Upon submission of a completed application, including all
20 required support documentation, -by the designated deadline
21 and fulfillment of all applicable eligibility requirements,
22 students will be admitted to non-talent magnet
23 programs/schools on a random selection basis according to
24 the following process listed below:

25 a. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):

26 1) Up to fifty percent (50%), but not less than
27 twenty-five percent (25%), of the available seats
28 at entry level of the magnet program shall be
29 randomly selected from eligible applicants
30 residing in the school's attendance boundary
31 areas with admission guaranteed- priority given
32 to eligible applicants with ~~elder~~-siblings already
33 attending the magnet program whose enrollment
34 will be concurrent with that of the ~~elder~~
35 currently attending sibling(s) for at least the
36 initial year of their admission. Sibling
37 applications must meet all eligibility
38 requirements and admittance will be dependent
39 upon space availability.
40

41 _____ 2) The remaining seats will be randomly filled with
42 eligible students outside of the school's
43 attendance boundary with admission

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1 ~~guaranteed~~ priority given to eligible applicants
2 with ~~elder~~-siblings already attending the magnet
3 program whose enrollment will be concurrent
4 with that of the ~~elder~~ currently attending
5 sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their
6 admission.

7 3) Application for seats open in grade levels other
8 than the designated entry grade will be assigned
9 through the random selection process. Seats
10 which become available beyond the entry level
11 will be ~~guaranteed~~ given priority to eligible
12 applicants with ~~elder~~-siblings already attending
13 the magnet program whose enrollment will be
14 concurrent with that of the ~~elder~~ currently
15 attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of
16 their admission. Sibling applicants must meet
17 all eligibility requirements and admittance will
18 be dependent upon space availability. A priority
19 weight ~~will~~ may be allocated for successful
20 matriculation from a magnet program/school
21 with a similar theme.

22
23 4) In an effort to reduce minority-group isolation
24 (MGI) within the district, an additional priority is
25 authorized to be provided in the random
26 selection process for magnet school applicants
27 residing within pre-identified zip codes for
28 targeted magnet programs. Pre-identified zip
29 codes will vary by school and will be selected by
30 comparing a zip code's poverty rate to the
31 average county poverty rate as identified by the
32 most recent data source, such as the American
33 Community Survey (ACS) or its equivalent.

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

36 1) Students residing in the attendance boundary
37 area of the magnet school will be assigned first,
38 providing they meet eligibility criteria.-

39 2) The remaining available seats will be filled by
40 eligible applicants residing outside of the
41 school's attendance boundary, with admission
42 ~~guaranteed~~ priority given to eligible applicants
43 with ~~elder~~-siblings already attending the magnet
44 program whose enrollment will be concurrent

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1 with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending
2 sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their
3 admission. Priority weights may be added for
4 matriculation from a magnet program/school
5 with a similar theme. Sibling applicants must
6 meet all eligibility requirements and admittance
7 will be dependent upon space availability.

8 3) In order to maintain the designation as a
9 schoolwide magnet with an attendance
10 boundary, a minimum of twenty-five
11 percent (25%) of the magnet program/school
12 population must be filled by eligible students
13 from outside the school's attendance boundary.
14 If the twenty-five percent (25%) threshold is not
15 achievable, the magnet school may be
16 re-designated as a ~~magnet~~ Choice school site
17 program serving a subset of the school
18 population and ~~budgeted~~ resources adjusted
19 accordingly.

20 4) In an effort to reduce minority-group isolation
(MGI) within the district, an additional priority is
authorized to be provided in the random selection
process for magnet school applicants residing
within pre-identified zip codes for targeted
magnet programs. Pre-identified zip codes will
vary by school and will be selected by comparing
a zip code's poverty rate to the average county
poverty rate as identified by the most recent data
source, such as the American Community Survey
(ACS) or its equivalent.

21 c. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary
22 (Schoolwide):

23 1) Eligible applicants seeking admission to a
24 magnet school without an attendance boundary
25 will be selected through a random selection
26 process.

27 2) Admission priority will be ~~guaranteed~~ given for
28 eligible applicants with ~~elder~~ siblings already
29 attending the magnet program whose enrollment
30 will be concurrent with that of the ~~elder~~
31 currently attending sibling(s) for at least the
32 initial year of their admission. Priority weights
33 may be added for matriculation from a magnet

1 program/school with a similar theme. Sibling
2 applicants must meet all eligibility requirements
3 and admittance will be dependent upon space
4 availability.
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6 3) Eligible sStudents enrolled in an International
7 Studies (IS) program may be granted direct
8 articulation in order to continue in the program
9 of study based on a Board approved
10 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and
11 space availability.

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13 4) In an effort to reduce minority-group isolation
14 (MGI) within the district, an additional priority is
15 authorized to be provided in the random
16 selection process for magnet school applicants
17 residing within pre-identified zip codes for
18 targeted magnet programs. Pre-identified zip
19 codes will vary by school and will be selected by
20 comparing a zip code's poverty rate to the
21 average county poverty rate as identified by the
22 most recent data source, such as the American
23 Community Survey (ACS) or its equivalent.

24 15. Student recruitment efforts shall continue in magnet
25 programs/schools until all available seats are filled.

26 16. Students submitting an application for a talent magnet
27 program/school will be evaluated on the specific criteria
28 related to each art form during the required audition and will
29 be ranked and placed on the basis of their audition scores.
30 Magnet program/school principals, in conjunction with
31 School Operations (or comparable District office/department),
32 shall be responsible for selecting a diverse panel of
33 adjudicators. A minimum of one adjudicator may be
34 designated at auditions at the discretion of the
35 Superintendent. Selection of students for talent programs
36 will be based solely on the specific talent aligned to each
37 magnet program strand. Academic achievement may not be
38 used as the sole determination in the selection process, but
39 may be a factor for continued enrollment in the program.

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41 C. Evaluation

42 1. Each year, School Choice and Parental Options (or
43 comparable District office/department) will review magnet
44 application and enrollment data to assess the degree to which

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- 1 recruitment goals have been met. If necessary, the
2 Superintendent will recommend appropriate strategies
3 and/or modifications.
- 4 2. Each year the Superintendent will review magnet application
5 and enrollment data.
- 6 3. An annual administrative review of existing magnet
7 programs/schools shall be conducted by the Superintendent
8 and the Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis (or
9 comparable District offices/departments) to determine the
10 impact of magnet programs/schools on the diversity of
11 student enrollment, academic achievement, and student
12 attendance.
- 13 4. Formal evaluations of magnet programs/schools may be
14 authorized as resources permit and/or circumstances
15 warrant such action.

16 F.S. 1001.32(2), 1001.41(6), 1001.42(4),(a), 1001.43(3),(8), 1002.31