

Office of Superintendent of Schools  
Board Meeting of September 6, 2017

September 1, 2017

Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer  
Office of Academics and Transformation

**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.

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## **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 } Revised  
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~~region 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.

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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. } Revised

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

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36 Upon approval by the Region and the District (School Choice  
37 and Parental Options and appropriate District program staff  
38 when applicable), magnet programs/schools may establish  
39 goals and benchmarks which students must meet in order to  
40 remain eligible and enrolled in the magnet program/school. } Revised



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10. Enhancement opportunities may be provided to prepare students, including at-risk, handicapped, underserved, and limited English proficient students for magnet program/school entry. These opportunities may include internships, outreach, summer enrichment, and mentoring programs.
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11. Notwithstanding the admission processes in this policy, the Superintendent may override any of these processes when determined by the District to be in the best interest of a student or a group of students.
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12. Once students have met eligibility, admission into programs is based on space availability and priorities for admission will be applied for random selection programs in the following order: Federal mandate, State law (e.g., military), Board policy (e.g., sibling), other (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding). } Revised
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13. In the event that the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of available seats (e.g., more siblings than seats available) a random selection process will be used.
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14. Upon submission of a completed application, including all required support documentation, -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 listed below:
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- a. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):
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**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY**

PROGRAM

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- 1) Up to fifty percent (50%), but not less than twenty-five percent (25%), 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~~ priority given to eligible applicants with ~~older~~ siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. Sibling applications must meet all eligibility requirements and admittance will be dependent upon space availability.
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- 2) The remaining seats will be randomly filled with eligible students outside of the school's attendance boundary with admission ~~guaranteed~~ priority given to eligible applicants with ~~older~~ siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission.
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- 3) 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~~ given priority to eligible applicants with ~~older~~ siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. Sibling applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and admittance will be dependent upon space availability. A priority ~~weight will~~ may be allocated for successful } Revised  
matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme.
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- 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.

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

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

2) The remaining available seats will be filled by eligible applicants residing outside of the school's attendance boundary, with admission guaranteed priority given to eligible applicants with ~~older~~ siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. A pPriority weights may be added for matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme. Sibling applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and admittance will be dependent upon space availability.

Revised

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

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.

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

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

2) Admission priority will be ~~guaranteed- given for~~ eligible applicants with ~~older~~ siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the ~~older~~ currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. A pPriority } Revised  
~~weights~~ may be added for matriculation from a magnet program/school with a similar theme. Sibling applicants must meet all eligibility requirements and admittance will be dependent upon space availability.

3) Eligible sStudents enrolled in an International Studies (IS) program may be granted direct articulation in order to continue in the program of study based on a Board approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and space availability.

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.

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

1 16. Students submitting an application for a talent magnet  
2 program/school will be evaluated on the specific criteria  
3 related to each art form during the required audition and will  
4 be ranked and placed on the basis of their audition scores.  
5 Magnet program/school principals, in conjunction with  
6 School Operations (or comparable District office/department),  
7 shall be responsible for selecting a diverse panel of  
8 adjudicators. A minimum of one adjudicator may be  
9 designated at auditions at the discretion of the  
10 Superintendent. Selection of students for talent programs  
11 will be based solely on the specific talent aligned to each  
12 magnet program strand. Academic achievement may not be  
13 used as the sole determination in the selection process, but  
14 may be a factor for continued enrollment in the program.

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16 C. Evaluation

- 17 1. Each year, School Choice and Parental Options (or  
18 comparable District office/department) will review magnet  
19 application and enrollment data to assess the degree to which  
20 recruitment goals have been met. If necessary, the  
21 Superintendent will recommend appropriate strategies  
22 and/or modifications.
- 23 2. Each year the Superintendent will review magnet application  
24 and enrollment data.
- 25 3. An annual administrative review of existing magnet  
26 programs/schools shall be conducted by the Superintendent  
27 and the Assessment, Research, and Data Analysis (or  
28 comparable District offices/departments) to determine the  
29 impact of magnet programs/schools on the diversity of  
30 student enrollment, academic achievement, and student  
31 attendance.
- 32 4. Formal evaluations of magnet programs/schools may be  
33 authorized as resources permit and/or circumstances  
34 warrant such action.

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