

Ms. Marie Izquierdo, Chief Academic Officer

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

COMMITTEE: **ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

LINK TO STRATEGIC

BLUEPRINT: **SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

On October 2, 2019, at its regular meeting, the Board approved Agenda Item H-9 (School Board Policy 2370), sponsored by Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, Board Chair, and co-sponsored by Dr. Martin Karp, Vice-Chair, and Board Members Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, Dr. Steve Gallon III, Ms. Lubby Navarro, Dr. Marta R. Perez, and Ms. Mari Tere Rojas. The Item directed the Superintendent to amend relevant policies to ensure that current practices in the magnet application process are clearly delineated, and are applied uniformly throughout the District with regard to multiple birth sibling operational practices and procedures for application and selection of students to magnet programs /schools. This item requests Board approval to authorize the Superintendent to amend Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs/Schools*, to allow parents and legal guardians the choice of linking or not linking multiple birth siblings in the magnet random selection process.

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 Administrative Procedures Act to amend School Board Policy 2370, *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 Procedures Act to amend School Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs/Schools*.

MI/SJD:km

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on November 20, 2019, its intention to amend School Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, at its meeting on January 15, 2020.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: To amend Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs / Schools*, to ensure that multiple birth siblings are afforded the same standing as any other student during selection, placement, and enrollment in the District's magnet programs and schools

SUMMARY: The proposed revisions are to amend relevant policies to ensure that current practices in the magnet application process are clearly delineated and are applied uniformly throughout the District with regard to multiple birth sibling practices and procedures. The proposed revision to the application guidelines in Policy 2370 pertaining to multiple birth siblings, will allow parents and legal guardians the choice of linking or not linking multiple birth siblings in the magnet random selection process.

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

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

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING THE BOARD MEETING of January 15, 2020, 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 December 17, 2019, 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: November 4, 2019

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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 understanding
14 necessary to pursue post-secondary aspirations in highly specialized areas of interest.
15 Another goal of magnet programs/schools is to recruit students whose unique
16 language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, gender,
17 and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the magnet
18 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 admit
21 students. Application to magnet programs/schools is voluntary and no other transfer
22 provisions, other than the admission processes in this policy, may be used to access
23 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 geographically
26 distinct from what is offered in their assigned home school. In addition to unique
27 curricular offerings, magnet programs/schools may also be conceptually-based,
28 under such models as commuter schools, professional development/laboratory
29 schools, single gender schools, etc. Prior to October 1st of each year, the
30 Superintendent will transmit to the School Board the list of all magnet
31 programs/schools that are operational in the District and to which this policy applies.

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1 Types of Magnet Programs/Schools

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

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

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

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

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1 **Guidelines and Procedures**

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

5 A. Planning

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

8 a. public interest in particular magnet themes;

9 b. the need to stem declining enrollment or mitigate
10 overcrowding;

11 c. improving the quality of education through proven
12 curricular and instructional approaches;

13 d. expanding public school choice options for
14 parents/guardians, including commuter and workplace
15 magnet schools;

16 e. ensuring equitable access for all students;

17 f. budgetary constraints;

18 g. availability of support, fiscal or otherwise, from outside
19 sources (e.g. municipalities, grants, etc.); and/or

20 h. enhancing diverse student enrollments.

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2. Annually, each magnet program/school principal, in conjunction with the corresponding 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 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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- 1 5. School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable District
2 office/department), in conjunction with the Information
3 Technology Services (or comparable District
4 office/department), will process all magnet applications
5 centrally via an on-line application process.
6 Parents/Guardians may also mail or hand-deliver paper
7 applications to School Choice and Parental Options (or
8 comparable District office/department) prior to the deadline.

- 9 6. Applications and all required support documentation for
10 admission to magnet programs/schools must be received by
11 January 15th of the school year preceding the year for which
12 admission to the program/school is sought. Application forms
13 for magnet programs/schools shall be freely available at all
14 District schools and through the District's website at the
15 commencement of the application period.

- 16 7. Applicants who are part of a multiple birth (twins, triplets,
17 quadruplets, etc.) will be admitted when one of them is selected
18 for admission to the same magnet program/school through the
19 random selection process. However, each of the multiple birth
20 siblings must meet the eligibility requirements for the selected
21 magnet program/school.
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23 Parents or guardians of multiple birth siblings will have the
24 option to link each student's name in the magnet application
25 form(s) during the application process.
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27 Decisions to link or not link must be confirmed prior to
28 January 31st. Parents/Guardians of multiple birth students
29 who have submitted magnet applications will be contacted to
30 confirm their selected option. The multiple birth process of
31 linking or not linking This does not pertain to audition-based
32 magnet programs.

- 33 8. Magnet programs/schools through the School Choice and
34 Parental Options office/department will advise applicants who
35 have met the application deadline of the initial application
36 outcome on or about March 15th. For applicants receiving an
37 offer of acceptance, parents/guardians must accept or decline
38 the admission offer into the applied for magnet

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1 program(s)/school(s) on or before March 31st. Failure to
2 respond by March 31st shall be considered a rejection of the
3 offer of admission to the program. Notwithstanding the
4 application deadlines, open enrollment shall be allowed into
5 programs that reflect available capacity.

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- 1 9. Students who are eligible to be enrolled in a District school, or
2 will be enrolled in a grade level served by a magnet
3 program/school, may apply for admission. Various admission
4 criteria have been established for entrance into each magnet
5 program/school appropriate to the specific theme or focus.
- 6 Eligibility may be determined by, but are not limited to, such
7 factors as skill, talent, academic performance, conduct, written
8 essay, and interest. However, no single factor may be used to
9 exclude a student from access to a program. At no time may a
10 single standardized test score, be the sole determination of
11 eligibility.
- 12 Eligibility criteria must be related to the educational needs of
13 the magnet program/school and must not create unnecessary
14 barriers to equitable access. The School Choice and Parental
15 Options office/department will facilitate, along with School
16 Operations, Academics, and Assessment (or comparable
17 District offices/departments) a review and approve eligibility
18 criteria annually. Entrance level criteria which differs from the
19 approved factors must be authorized by the Superintendent.
- 20 Principals must annually review and submit any requested
21 revisions to the entrance level criteria for magnet
22 programs/schools to School Choice and Parental Options (or
23 comparable District office/department) and upon approval
24 make such criteria readily available to parents/guardians for
25 review when applying. Applications to magnet
26 programs/schools will become void upon the conclusion of the
27 calendar year after the beginning of the school year for which
28 they were submitted.

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- 1 Upon approval by the Region and the District (School Choice
2 and Parental Options and appropriate District program staff
3 when applicable), magnet programs/schools may establish
4 goals and benchmarks which students must meet in order to
5 remain eligible and enrolled in the magnet program/school.
- 6 10. Enhancement opportunities may be provided to prepare
7 students, including at-risk, handicapped, underserved, and
8 limited English proficient students for magnet program/school
9 entry. These opportunities may include internships, outreach,
10 summer enrichment, and mentoring programs.
- 11 11. Notwithstanding the admission processes in this policy, the
12 Superintendent may override any of these processes when
13 determined by the District to be in the best interest of a student
14 or a group of students.
- 15 12. Once students have met eligibility, admission into programs is
16 based on space availability and priorities for admission will be
17 applied for random selection programs in the following order:
18 Federal mandate, State law (e.g., military), Board policy (e.g.,
19 sibling), other (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding).
- 20 13. In the event that the number of eligible applicants exceeds the
21 number of available seats (e.g., more siblings than seats
22 available) a random selection process will be used.

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- 1 14. Upon submission of a completed application, including all
2 required support documentation, by the designated deadline
3 and fulfillment of all applicable eligibility requirements,
4 students will be admitted to non-talent magnet
5 programs/schools on a random selection basis according to
6 the following process listed below:
 - 7 a. Magnet Program (School-within-a-School):
 - 8 1) Up to fifty percent (50%), but not less than
9 twenty-five percent (25%), of the available seats
10 at entry level of the magnet program shall be
11 randomly selected from eligible applicants
12 residing in the school's attendance boundary
13 areas with admission priority given to eligible
14 applicants with siblings already attending the
15 magnet program whose enrollment will be
16 concurrent with that of the currently attending
17 sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their
18 admission. Sibling applications must meet all
19 eligibility requirements and admittance will be
20 dependent upon space availability.
 - 21 2) The remaining seats will be randomly filled with
22 eligible students outside of the school's
23 attendance boundary with admission priority
24 given to eligible applicants with siblings already
25 attending the magnet program whose enrollment
26 will be concurrent with that of the currently
27 attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of
28 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 given priority to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the 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 may be allocated for successful 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.
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- b. Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):
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- 1) Students residing in the attendance boundary area of the magnet school will be assigned first, providing they meet eligibility criteria.

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- 2) The remaining available seats will be filled by eligible applicants residing outside of the school's attendance boundary, with admission priority given to eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. A priority 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) 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 choice school site program serving a subset of the school population and 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.

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- c. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary
(~~School~~Districtwide):
- 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 given for eligible applicants with siblings already attending the magnet program whose enrollment will be concurrent with that of the currently attending sibling(s) for at least the initial year of their admission. A priority 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 students 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.

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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.
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15. Student recruitment efforts shall continue in magnet programs/schools until all available seats are filled.
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16. 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. 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 continued enrollment in the program.

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

18 F.S. 1001.32(2)
19 F.S. 1001.41(6)
20 F.S. 1001.42(4),(a)
21 F.S. 1001.43(3),(8)
22 F.S. 1002.31

23 Revised 10/11/17

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