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Office of Academics and Transformation

**SUBJECT:            INITIAL READING: TO REPEAL BOARD POLICY 2370 –  
MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS AND REPLACE IT WITH  
BOARD POLICY 2370, MAGNET CHOICE  
SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS**

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

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
PLAN:                RELEVANT, RIGOROUS AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

At the School Board meeting of April 19, 2023, the Board approved Agenda Item H-14, proffered by School Board Vice Chair, Mr. Danny Espino, and co-sponsored by the School Board Chair, Ms. Mari Tere Rojas and by all Board Members. Agenda Item H-14 authorized the Superintendent of Schools to explore the feasibility of extending a priority within the random selection process for magnet school/program acceptance to the dependent children of honorably discharged veterans of the United States Military.

In reviewing the policy, it was determined beneficial to repeal the existing policy and replace it with a revised, restructured policy that includes not only the priority for dependent children of honorably discharged veterans of the United States military but also includes a benefit for students whose parent/guardian is an employee of M-DCPS. As such, authorization is requested for the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings to repeal Policy 2370 – Magnet Programs/Schools and replace it with Policy 2370 – Magnet Choice Schools/Programs.

The replacement policy outlines the various types of magnet choice schools and programs that can be established and includes a new type of magnet model that would provide for intra-district magnets to be established with shared resources. As with the repealed policy, the replacement policy establishes how students apply to and are accepted by magnet choice schools and programs.

The replacement policy was drafted in collaboration with, and reviewed by, the Superintendent, District staff, and the Office of the General Counsel. Attached are the Notice of Intended Action and the proposed policy for adoption.

**C-101**

**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 repeal Board Policy 2370 – Magnet Programs/Schools and replace it with School Board Policy 2370, Magnet Choice Schools/Programs.

## NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on June 21, 2023, its intention to repeal and replace Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs/Schools*, at its regular meeting on August 16, 2023.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Choice Schools/Programs*, is recommended for repeal and replacement to restructure and augment the existing policy that governs magnet schools and programs within the District.

**SUMMARY:** Board Policy 2370, *Magnet Choice Schools/Programs*, is recommended for repeal and replacement to restructure and augment the existing policy that governs magnet schools and programs within the District. Pursuant to Board action, the replacement policy includes priority admission for dependent children of honorably discharged veterans of the United States military and includes a benefit for students whose parent/guardian is an employee of M-DCPS. The replacement policy outlines the various types of magnet choice schools and programs that can be established and includes a new type of magnet model that would provide for intra-district magnets to be established with shared resources. As with the repealed policy, the replacement policy establishes how students apply to and are accepted by magnet choice schools and programs.

**SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED:** Fla. Stat. ss. 1001.41 (1), (2), 1001.42(4), (8) Fla. Stat.

**LAWS IMPLEMENTED INTERPRETED OR MADE SPECIFIC:** Fla. Stat. ss. 1001.41(6), 1001.43(1), 1003.05, 1002.31; 5 U.S.C. Section 2108; 20 U.S.C. Section 7231; 34 C.F.R. Part 280.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF August 16, 2023, 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 in Section 120.54(1), Fla. Stat., must do so in writing by July 19, 2023, to the Superintendent, 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, Fla. Stat.)

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED NEW POLICY are 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.



Book	Policy Manual
Section	2000 Program
Title	MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS
Code	po2370
Status	Active
Adopted	May 11, 2011
Last Revised	January 15, 2020

### ~~2370~~ **MAGNET PROGRAMS/SCHOOLS**

~~Magnet programs/schools 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.~~

~~Magnet programs/schools 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 in which an application/random selection or audition process is used to select and admit students. Application to magnet programs/schools is voluntary and no other transfer provisions, other than the admission processes in this policy, may be used 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 what is offered in their assigned home school. In addition to unique curricular offerings, magnet programs/schools may 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 will transmit to the School Board the list of all magnet programs/schools that are operational in the District and to which this policy applies.~~

## **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 with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide): 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.~~
- c. ~~Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (Districtwide): 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.~~

## **Guidelines and Procedures**

The Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures and guidelines to address the following issues 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, including 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 Superintendent. Recommendations by the school's administrative and instructional staff, Region and District staff should play a major role in the selection of the program's theme/focus.~~
3. ~~To determine the enrollment level needed to offer a viable program, staff, including representatives from the school, corresponding 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

School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable District office/department) will conduct countywide marketing and recruitment activities 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;
  - d. presentations at feeder schools; and
  - e. social/digital media outreach.
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.
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.
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.
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 and all required support documentation 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 District schools and through the District's website at 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.

Parents or guardians of multiple birth siblings will have the option to link each student's name in the magnet application form(s) during the application process.

Decisions to link or not link must be confirmed prior to January 31st. Parents/Guardians of multiple birth students who have submitted magnet applications will be contacted to confirm their selected option. The multiple birth process of linking or not linking does not pertain to audition based magnet programs.

8. Magnet programs/schools through the School Choice and Parental Options office/department will advise applicants who have met the application deadline of the initial 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 a rejection of the offer of admission to the program. Notwithstanding the application deadlines, open enrollment shall be allowed into programs that reflect available capacity.
9. Students who are eligible to be enrolled in a District 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 to a program. At no time may a single standardized test score, 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. The School Choice and Parental Options office/department will facilitate, along with School Operations, Academics, and Assessment (or comparable District offices/departments) a review and approve eligibility criteria annually. Entrance level criteria which differs from the approved factors must be authorized by the Superintendent.

Principals must annually review and submit any requested revisions to the entrance level criteria for magnet programs/schools to School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable District office/department) and upon approval 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 calendar year after the beginning of the school year for which they were submitted.

Upon approval by the Region and the District (School Choice and Parental Options

and appropriate District program staff when applicable), magnet programs/schools may establish goals and benchmarks which students must meet in order to remain eligible and enrolled in the magnet program/school.

- ~~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.~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~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).~~
- ~~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.~~
- ~~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:
  - ~~a. Magnet Program (School within a School):
    - ~~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 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. Sibling applications must meet all eligibility requirements and admittance will be dependent upon space availability.~~
    - ~~2. The remaining seats will be randomly filled with eligible students 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.~~
    - ~~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.~~~~~~

- ~~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 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.~~

~~c. Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (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.~~

~~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.~~

~~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.~~

#### ~~c. Evaluation~~

~~1. Each year, School Choice and Parental Options (or comparable District office/department) will review magnet application and enrollment data to assess the degree to which recruitment goals have been met. If necessary, the Superintendent will recommend appropriate strategies and/or modifications.~~

~~2. Each year the Superintendent will review magnet application and enrollment data.~~

~~3. An annual administrative review of existing magnet programs/schools shall be conducted by the Superintendent and the Assessment, Research, 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.~~

Effective  
7/1/11  
Revised  
10/11/17  
Revised  
1/15/20

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Legal

F.S. 1001.32(2)

F.S. 1001.41(6)

F.S. 1001.42(4),(a)

F.S. 1001.43(3),(8)

F.S. 1002.31

REPEAL

## 2370 - MAGNET CHOICE SCHOOLS/PROGRAMS

### I. Magnet Programs

Magnet Schools/Programs (MSPs), a choice option for families, broaden public school choices and offer specialized curricula focused on specific themes or unique curricular areas. MSPs are a valuable option for parents and students who seek specialized programming, increased academic rigor, and exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives. MSPs are designed to attract a diverse student population, supporting desegregation/integration, within and outside attendance boundaries, by offering unique and innovative educational programs that are not often found in traditional neighborhood schools. Additionally, they intend to provide families with a unique curricula choice option for their children's education, allowing them to select a school that aligns with their child's interests and talents.

MSPs stem declining enrollment, mitigate overcrowding, and help comply with Federal and State public school choice provisions. MSPs 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, MSPs offer students a chance to acquire or develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding necessary to pursue post-secondary and career aspirations in highly specialized areas of interest that align to current trends. Another goal of MSPs is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, biological sex, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the MSPs.

MSPs are classified under a broad definition of school choice in which an application/random selection, language proficiency examination, or audition process is used to select and admit students. Application to MSPs is voluntary and no other transfer provisions, other than the admission processes in this policy, may be used to access MSPs. Dismissal from MSPs shall be in accordance with Section VII.b. of this policy.

The overarching purpose of MSPs is to provide an optional educational environment for students that is pedagogically and/or geographically distinct from what is offered in their assigned home school. In addition to unique curricular offerings, MSPs may also be conceptually based, under such models as commuter schools, professional development/laboratory schools, single sex schools, etc. Prior to October 1st of each year, the Office of School Choice & Parental Options will publicly list all MSPs that are operational in the District and to which this policy applies.

## II. Types of MSPs

There are four MSP types:

- a. **Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (Districtwide model):** A magnet school without an attendance boundary is a school that serves eligible students throughout the District and has no designated attendance boundary of its own.
- b. **Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide model):** A magnet school with an attendance boundary is a school that serves all students from its designated attendance boundary as well as a specified number of out-of-boundary applicants.
- c. **Magnet Program (Program-within-a-School model):** 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.
- d. **Magnet Network (Districtwide Intra-district Magnet Program):** A magnet network is a districtwide magnet program that encompasses students from several schools/campuses coming together virtually/physically to engage in magnet courses of study.

## III. Establishing MSPs

To determine the need for a MSP, special consideration shall be given to the following:

- a. enhancing diverse student enrollments while mitigating minority group isolation or aiding in desegregation;
- b. public interest in particular magnet themes;
- c. the need to stem declining enrollment or mitigate overcrowding;
- d. improving the quality of education through proven curricular and instructional approaches;
- e. expanding public school choice options for parents/guardians, including commuter and workplace magnet schools;
- f. ensuring equitable access for all students;
- g. budgetary constraints; and
- h. availability of support, fiscal or otherwise, from outside sources (e.g., municipalities, grants, etc.).

Proposals for new choice programs (magnet and non-magnet) may be submitted by school principals or by Region administrators. MSP requests will be evaluated annually to ensure that program placement does not interfere with existing programs in the immediate community while also ensuring that program placement provides equity and access. Recommendations by the school's administrative and

instructional staff, Region and District staff should play a role in the selection of the program's theme/focus. Recommended programs will be considered by the Superintendent.

To determine the enrollment level needed to offer a viable program, staff, including representatives from the school, corresponding Region and the Office of School Choice & Parental Options will establish both a minimum number and a maximum number of students to be served by each MSP.

#### **IV. MSP Evaluations**

Annually, the Office of School Choice & Parental Options will review magnet application and enrollment data to assess the degree to which recruitment goals have been met. The review shall be conducted by the Office of School Choice & Parental Options to determine the impact of MSPs on the diversity of student enrollment, academic achievement, and efficacy of magnet implementation.

#### **V. MSP Closures**

The recommendation to close an MSP may originate at the school level, Region level, or at the Office of School Choice & Parental Options level. However, the ultimate decision to close the program will be made by the Superintendent. The decision to close a program would only be made after weighing the factors such as program effectiveness, program cost, student impact, enrollment, facilities, the magnet curriculum, magnet staff, and support systems.

For programs-within-a-school and schoolwide programs, the student profile must surpass the twenty-five percent (25%) threshold of students originating from outside of a MSP's boundary, or the MSP may be re-designated as a non-magnet choice school program serving a subset of the school population and resources adjusted accordingly.

#### **VI. Marketing of MSPs**

The marketing of MSPs shall be conducted in a way that is fair, equitable, and inclusive. This means that all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or ability level shall have equitable access to information regarding MSPs and an equal opportunity to apply. The marketing of MSPs shall be conducted in a way that is accurate and truthful. All information about MSPs, including admissions requirements, curriculum, and extracurricular activities, shall be accurate and up to date.

One of the goals of MSPs is to recruit students whose unique language needs or abilities, socio-economic circumstances, race, ethnicity, biological sex, and exceptional education needs are underrepresented in the MSP. As such, marketing efforts should be diverse and inclusive, reaching out to a wide range of potential applicants, including underrepresented communities, students with disabilities, and students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Students must also have

adequate opportunities to enroll in educational programs which may not be available in their boundary school. To meet these goals, each school, in conjunction with School Choice and Parental Options, will annually develop targeted recruitment goals and strategies and monitor the return on investment after having implemented strategies to achieve the recruitment goals.

## **VII. Magnet Enrollment Eligibility & Enrollment Agreements**

### **a. Enrollment Eligibility**

Students who are eligible to be enrolled in a District school or will be enrolled in a grade level served by a MSP, may apply for admission. Various admission eligibility models have been established for entrance into MSPs. Eligibility may be determined by but is not limited to a combination of factors such as skill, talent, academic performance, conduct, written essay, language proficiency, and interest. At no time may a standardized test score be the sole determination of eligibility.

Authorized eligibility models will be provided to MSPs annually prior to the start of the academic year by the Office of School Choice & Parental Options. Annually, principals must review and submit any requested deviations from the pre-approved eligibility models for MSPs to the Office of School Choice & Parental Options and, upon approval, MSPs must make such eligibility criteria readily available to parents/guardians for review when applying. Eligibility criteria must be related to the educational needs of the MSP and must not create unnecessary barriers to equitable access. The School Choice and Parental Options office will review and approve eligibility criteria annually. Eligibility criteria that differ from pre-approved eligibility models must be authorized by the Superintendent.

### **b. Enrollment Agreements**

Upon approval by the Office of School Choice & Parental Options, MSPs may establish goals and benchmark criteria that students must meet to remain eligible and enrolled in the MSP. All MSPs must use one of the authorized magnet enrollment agreements that stipulate the magnet criteria necessary to remain enrolled in a MSP.

School Choice & Parental Options authorized magnet agreements which stipulate criteria to remain enrolled will be provided to MSPs annually prior to the start of the academic year. Annually, principals must review and submit any requested deviations from the pre-approved criteria for enrollment for MSPs to the Office of School Choice & Parental Options. Any deviation requests will be applied to the subsequent cohort of students enrolled at the school/program. Once a magnet enrollment agreement has been signed by the required parties, the terms and criteria shall be upheld until the student is no longer enrolled at the MSP.

Dismissal from an MSP may occur at the conclusion of the academic year for any serious or repeat violations of the terms stipulated in the magnet enrollment agreement. Immediate dismissal may occur upon any serious (Level III-V) or repeat violations the *Code of Student Conduct* when such violations result in placement in an alternative educational setting.

## VIII. Magnet Application

Those interested in enrolling in an MSP must first complete the Magnet School Application.

### a. General Application Process

The Office of School Choice and Parental Options will process all magnet applications centrally. Parents may apply online, via mail, or hand-deliver paper applications to the Office of School Choice and Parental Options before the application deadline. The application window opens annually on October 1st.

1. Applications and all required support documentation for admission to MSPs must be received by January 15th of the academic year preceding the academic year for which admission to the school/program is sought.
2. Application forms for MSPs shall be freely available at all District schools and through the District's website at the commencement of the application period.
3. All schools will advertise the availability of the Magnet Application on their school's website, send a parent notification message via phone/text/email, and encourage students to apply to MSPs.
4. By submitting a Magnet Application, a parent/guardian has agreed to the terms of the Agreement of Understanding published on the School Choice & Parental Options website and furnished in the magnet application.
5. The School Choice & Parental Options office will advise applicants who have met the application deadline of the initial application outcome on or about March 15th. Notification format will emulate the format utilized by the applicant to submit the magnet application (i.e. paper-based applicants will receive a paper-based letter; online applicants will receive an email notification).
6. For applicants receiving an offer of admission, parents must accept or decline the admission offer into the identified MSPs on or before the specified deadline date on the admissions notice. Failure to respond by the deadline shall be considered a rejection of the offer of admission and forfeiture of all acceptance offers.
7. Notwithstanding the application deadlines, applications shall be reopened for programs that reflect available capacity through an Off-Cycle Application process. The Office of School Choice & Parental

Options will list all available schools with open seats under the School Choice & Parental Options website. Seats are filled by eligible students on a first come, first serve basis.

**b. General Application Priorities and Benefits**

Once applicants have met eligibility criteria and submitted an application, admission into MSPs will be based on space availability through a random selection process. Admission priority may be assigned based on meeting specific criteria. (Some priorities may not be applicable to all MSPs.) For all priority types, student admission will be contingent upon the availability of open seats in the grade level for which the student is applying. Priorities or benefits will be assigned in the following order:

**1. Federal/State Law & Regulations**

- i. **Military** – F.S. 1003.05 stipulates that dependent children of active-duty military personnel who otherwise meet the eligibility criteria for magnet programs shall be provided priority admission. This applies to dependent children whose parents are transferred or are pending transfer to a military installation within the School District, while on active military duty, pursuant to an official military order, shall be considered a resident of the school district for purposes of enrollment when the order is submitted to the school district. Applicants must furnish active military orders upon applying.
- ii. **Minority Group Isolation (MGI)** – 20 U.S.C. 7231 & 34 CFR Part 280 call for the elimination, reduction, or prevention of minority group isolation in elementary and secondary schools. As such, in order to reduce minority-group isolation 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 the Office of School Choice & Parental Options 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.

**2. Board Policy**

- i. **Veteran** – priority will be afforded to children of persons who are defined as veterans in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Section 2108(1), (2). Applicants must:
  - a) furnish the parent's form DD-214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" which reflects dates of service and discharge under honorable conditions;

- b) furnish a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs reflecting level of disability if applying as a veteran with a service-connected disability; and
- c) ensure that the enrolling veteran child is a resident of Miami-Dade County.

For purposes of this policy, “enrolling veteran child” means a school-aged child, to be enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grade, in the same household as and dependent upon a veteran parent or documentation of shared parental responsibility.

- ii. **Sibling/Multiple-Birth** – Admission priority is given to applicants with siblings currently attending and who will attend the same MSP for the school year for which the applicant is applying (a minimum of one concurrent year). This priority is not applicable for audition-based or language proficiency MSPs. To be considered for Sibling Status, the following criteria must be met:

- a) provide the correct Miami-Dade County Public Schools Student Identification Number for both the applicant and applicant’s currently enrolled sibling(s),
- b) the sibling must reside in the same household as the student who is applying, or documentation of shared parental responsibility must be provided.

Multiple siblings applying to the same school during the same application cycle must submit an individual application for each sibling. The entrance requirements are reviewed for each applicant individually. Parents/guardians must link the students in the multiple sibling section of the magnet application for them to run together in the random selection. Failure to do so may result in the students running separately and their acceptance results may differ. The multiple sibling link is only applicable for random selection programs, not for audition-based or language proficiency programs. No special consideration will be given if non-linked multiple siblings do not share the same results.

Applicants who are linked siblings will be admitted when one of them is selected for admission to the same magnet school/program through the random selection process. However, each of the siblings must meet the eligibility requirements and apply for the selected MSP.

Decisions to link or not link must be confirmed prior to January 31st. Parents/Guardians of sibling students who have

submitted magnet applications will be contacted to confirm their selected option. The sibling process of linking or not linking does not pertain to audition-based or language proficiency MSPs.

- iii. **Employee** – Parents/Guardians that are employed by Miami-Dade County Public Schools may evoke an employee benefit to increase the likelihood of their child being selected during a random selection process. To take advantage of the employee benefit, employees must complete two different applications: 1) The Employee-Benefit Magnet Application and 2) The General Magnet Application.
  - a) Five (5) percent of all available seats shall be reserved at each MSP for children of M-DCPS employees. These seats will be filled using a separate application available only to employees of M-DCPS (The Employee-Benefit Magnet Application). The same random selection process outlined in Section VIII.c shall be applied to randomly select students to fill the employee-benefit seats. If all employee applicants have been seated and empty seats remain, the seats shall be returned to the general pool. There shall be no off-cycle employee benefit; however, employees may still apply with the general pool during the off-cycle magnet application window.
  - b) Employees may also simultaneously apply to the General Magnet Application that is available to all families. No additional weighting, priority, or benefit shall be applied to this application.
  - c) Acceptances from a General Magnet Application shall supersede and void an acceptance from the Employee-Benefit Magnet Application.

### **3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County may elect to enter into an agreement with municipalities and/or organizations that would evoke priority admission for students as stipulated in the respective MOU or agreement. Such priorities would be contingent upon space availability and applicants must meet the following criteria:

- i. For address-bound requirements, the applicant's home address must be that of a residential dwelling with proof of ownership or lease.
- ii. Eligible students enrolled in an International Studies (IS) program may be granted direct articulation to continue in the

program of study contingent upon space availability.

**c. Magnet Random Selection & Admission**

Once the application window closes, applicant eligibility will be verified, and available seats will be opened within the Magnet Application System.

**1. Seats Available**

- i. Annually, each MSP principal, in conjunction with the corresponding Region and School Choice and Parental Options will identify the number of MSP seats available at the MSP by grade level.
- ii. The overall diversity of the MSP will be reviewed annually by the school, corresponding Region, and School Choice and Parental Options office utilizing the initial Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) reporting week in the fall.
- iii. Seat assignments will be allocated as outlined below:
  - a) *Magnet Program (Program-within-a-School):* 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 while applying admission priorities. The remaining seats will be randomly filled with eligible students outside of the school's attendance boundary while applying admission priorities. To maintain the designation as a magnet program within a school with an attendance boundary, a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the magnet program 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 program may be re-designated as a choice school site program serving a subset of the school population and resources adjusted accordingly.
  - b) *Magnet School with an Attendance Boundary (Schoolwide):* Students residing in the attendance boundary area of the magnet school will be assigned first. The remaining available seats will be filled by eligible applicants residing outside of the school's attendance boundary while applying admission priorities. To maintain the designation as a schoolwide magnet with an attendance boundary, a minimum of twenty-five percent (25%) of the magnet 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.

- c) Magnet School without an Attendance Boundary (Districtwide): Eligible applicants seeking admission to a magnet school without an attendance boundary will be selected as per Section VIII.c.2.
- d) Magnet Network (Districtwide Intra-district Magnet Program): Eligible applicants seeking admission to a magnet network without an attendance boundary will be selected as per Section VIII.c.2.

## **2. Magnet Selection & Admission**

Upon submission of a completed application, including all required support documentation and completion of any audition/testing requirements, by the designated deadline and fulfillment of all applicable eligibility requirements, students will be admitted to MSPs according to the following process:

### *i. Random Selection Schools/Programs*

- a) Once applicants have met eligibility, admission into programs will be based on space availability. Priorities for admission will be applied for random selection programs based on space availability.
- b) If the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of remaining seats, a computerized random selection process will be used to select students for admission.
- c) Eligible applicants that are not selected for admission will be wait-listed for admission should seats become available. Notification of admission is automated as seats become available and proceeds in the order of the wait list. Wait list position numbers are not disclosed as the position number will fluctuate hourly as seats open or close during the admission period.
- d) Accepting an admission offer will not affect an applicant's position on any wait-listed schools/program.

### *ii. Performance-Based Schools/Programs*

- a) Applicants for a talent MSPs will be evaluated on the specific criteria related to each art form during the required audition and will be ranked and placed based

on their audition scores.

- b) MSP principals, in conjunction with the Office of School Choice & Parental Options, 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.
- c) 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.

iii. Language-Themed Schools/Programs

- a) Applicants for a language-themed MSP will be evaluated on their proficiency in the targeted language. Applicants must meet all eligibility requirements to be considered for the MSP, which will include a minimum score on the language proficiency exam.
- b) MSP principals, in conjunction with the Office of School Choice & Parental Options and the Department of Bilingual Education and World Languages, shall be responsible for developing rubrics for language assessments used for the purposes of evaluating language proficiency.

All applications to MSPs will become void upon December 31st of the academic year for which they were submitted. Wait-lists will cease to admit students thereafter.

**IX. Superintendent's Authority**

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.

Effective 07.01.2011

Revised 10.11.2017

Revised 01.15.2020

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Legal References:

F.S. 1001.41(6)

F.S. 1001.42(4),(a)

F.S. 1001.43(3),(8)

F.S. 1002.31

F.S. 1003.05

5 U.S.C. Section 2108

20 U.S.C. Section 7231

34 C.F.R. Part 280

Adoption Date: 05.11.2011

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REPLACE