

**RESCIND BOARD REPORT 02-1218-PO03 AND  
ADOPT A NEW POLICY ON MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS**

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:**

That the Board rescind Board Report 02-1218-PO03 and adopt a new Policy on Magnet Schools and Programs.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to provide a comprehensive framework for enrollment in and the operation of magnet schools and programs in the Chicago Public Schools ("CPS" or "the District"). Magnet schools and programs have several goals including: (1) to provide and maintain desegregation in student assignments consistent with the District's desegregation obligation in U.S. v. Board of Education of the City of Chicago; (2) to promote diversity within schools included but not limited to the prevention, reduction and elimination of minority group isolation; (3) to provide a unique or specialized curriculum or approach; and (4) to improve achievement for all students participating in a magnet school or program. This policy is created to ensure equal access and equity in the provision of magnet schools and programs offered by the District.

This policy applies to all magnet schools and programs described herein beginning with enrollment applications for the 2008-2009 school year.

**I. TYPE OF MAGNETS**

The following types of magnet schools and programs exist in the Chicago Public Schools and are collectively referred to in this policy as "magnet schools and programs": (1) Elementary Magnet Schools, (2) Elementary Magnet Cluster Schools, (3) Elementary Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs, (4) Selective Enrollment High Schools and (5) High School Magnet Programs.

1. **Elementary Magnet Schools** – Generally, magnet schools do not have a neighborhood attendance boundary. Magnet schools offer a curriculum focused on a specific programmatic theme. Every student in the school is involved in the magnet theme or focus offered at that school. CPS uses non-testing admissions procedures for its magnet schools.

2. **Elementary Magnet Cluster Schools** - A magnet cluster school is a neighborhood school with a defined attendance area and accepts students who live within that boundary. Students who live outside of the neighborhood attendance boundary must submit an application in order to be considered for acceptance. Magnet cluster schools are located in groups of no less than four schools clustered nearby in a manner that provides the benefits of magnet programs to as many students as possible. Magnet cluster schools offer a curriculum focused on a specific programmatic theme. Each school in a cluster offers a programmatic theme in collaboration with its companion schools in the neighborhood cluster. CPS uses non-testing admissions procedures for its magnet cluster schools.

3. **Elementary Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs (GEAP)** – Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs constitute a continuum of programs and services that modify, supplement and support the standard education of students identified as gifted and talented who consistently excel in general intellectual ability or possess aptitude or talent in a specific area. The Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs consist of Regional Gifted Centers, Classical Schools, Academic Centers, and International Baccalaureate Preparatory Programs as further described below.

a. *Regional Gifted Centers* – A Regional Gifted Center is a school or a program within a school that offers a curriculum which is designed to meet the needs of gifted students and is faster in pace, broader in scope, and presents subject matter in greater depth than is possible in most programs. Some of these centers are designed to service the needs of high-ability English Language Learners.

b. *Classical Schools* - Classical Schools are designed to provide a challenging liberal arts course of instruction for students with high academic potential. The instructional program in these schools is accelerated and highly structured for strong academic achievement in literature, mathematics, language arts, world language and the humanities.

c. *Academic Centers* - Academic Centers offer a program that allows academically advanced students in grades 7-8 the opportunity to move through course material at their own pace.

d. *International Baccalaureate Preparatory Program* - An International Baccalaureate Preparatory Program is designed for intellectually able 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The program includes intensive study in English, French, social studies, laboratory science, mathematics, technology, arts, physical education, library science and advanced research.

4. **Selective Enrollment High Schools** – Selective Enrollment High Schools are designed to meet the needs of the City's most academically advanced students. A selective enrollment school does not have an attendance area.

5. **High School Magnet Programs** – High school magnet programs are located in neighborhood high schools in order to increase educational opportunities for students. The schools accept students who live within their attendance boundary. Students who live outside of the neighborhood attendance boundary must submit an application in order to be considered for acceptance.

## II. ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS

In order to ensure the quality of its magnet schools and programs, the District establishes the following accountability goals:

- (i) faculty teaching positions in a school with a magnet program that are funded by the District's desegregation program must be used to support the school's magnet program;
- (ii) all faculty teaching in a magnet program shall be highly qualified and fulfill the applicable state endorsement requirements.

At the end of each school year, the Office of Academic Enhancement may make recommendations to the Chief Executive Officer regarding the viability of the District's magnet schools and programs. Such assessments shall be made on the accountability standards noted herein. In the event that there is a determination that a magnet school or program is no longer viable, there will be notification to the Local School Council.

## III. ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

1. **Chicago Residency** - Enrollment in any CPS magnet school, magnet cluster school, magnet high school or program, GEAP school, or selective enrollment high school is limited to residents of the City of Chicago. A student is not required to reside in the City of Chicago in order to apply to these schools; however, the student must live within the City limits to enroll.

2. **Academic or Related Eligibility Criteria** – Generally, only GEAP schools, magnet high schools<sup>1</sup> and selective enrollment high schools may use academic or related criteria for determining student eligibility. All other magnet schools and programs shall use a non-testing policy and must admit students by computerized lottery, unless authorized by the Chief Executive Officer or his designee. The admissions criteria will be periodically reviewed by the Office of Specialized Services to ensure that the criteria are applied in a manner that provides equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities.

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<sup>1</sup> In some magnet high schools, in order for a student to be included in the computerized lottery process, a student must have a minimum stanine of 5 in reading and math on the previous year's standardized test. In these schools, students with disabilities must have minimum stanines in reading and math that add up to 10 in any combination.

**3. Application and Admission Process**

a. *Magnet Schools and Magnet Cluster Schools* – In the fall of each school year, the District shall make available a Standard Application for magnet schools and magnet cluster schools. Applications may be submitted for students seeking enrollment in the following school year. There is no limit to the number of schools to which students may apply. Where there are more applicants than available seats, the District shall select students through a computerized lottery process. Parents will be notified of application status in accordance with the guidelines set out in the District's Options for Knowledge publication. In cases where the IEP of students with physical impairments requires that the children attend school in an accessible building and a magnet school constitutes the closest accessible building that can implement the IEP, then such students must be accepted into the magnet school.

b. *Gifted and Enriched Academic Programs (GEAP)* - In the fall of each school year, the District shall make available a GEAP Application for Regional Gifted Centers, Classical Schools, Academic Centers and International Baccalaureate Preparatory Programs. Applications may be submitted for students seeking enrollment in the following school year. Students are selected through a testing process. Parents will be notified of application status in accordance with the guidelines set out in the District's Options for Knowledge publication.

c. *Selective Enrollment High Schools* - In fall of each school year, the District shall make available applications for Selective Enrollment High Schools. Applications may be submitted for students seeking enrollment in the following school year. Students are selected through a testing process. Parents will be notified of application status in accordance with the guidelines set out in the District's Options for Knowledge publication.

d. *High School Magnet Programs* - In fall of each school year, the District shall make Standard Applications for high school magnet programs available. Applications may be submitted for students seeking enrollment in the following school year. Where there are more applicants than available seats, the District shall select students through a computerized lottery process. Parents will be notified of application status in accordance with the guidelines set out in the District's Options for Knowledge publication.

e. *Affirmation* – All applications submitted under this policy shall contain a signed statement in which the parent or guardian affirms that the information contained in the application is true and correct.

**4. Desegregation Goals** - Consistent with the Second Amended (Desegregation) Consent Decree in the matter of U.S. v. Board of Education of the City of Chicago, the District currently applies specified racial goals to the extent practicable, in selecting applicants for admission in magnet schools and programs. The goal of each magnet school and program is to have an enrollment between 65-85 percent minority (Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, or American Indian/Alaskan Native) and 15-35 percent non-minority (White).

**5. Computerized Lotteries** - Where there are more applicants to a magnet school, magnet cluster school or high school magnet program than there are spaces available, a computerized lottery will be conducted to randomly select students for the available spaces. All lotteries shall be conducted in compliance with the Second Amended Consent Decree and the guidelines set out in the District's Options for Knowledge publication. Students may not apply for admissions through more than one lottery at any one school. The following rules apply to the selection of students by computerized lottery.

a. *Proximity Lottery* - This lottery applies to elementary magnet schools and high school magnet schools. The goal of a proximity lottery is to achieve at least a 30 percent neighborhood component of the school's enrollment. The proximity lottery does not apply to magnet cluster schools, high school magnet programs, GEAP schools or programs, or selective enrollment high schools. Where there are more applicants to a magnet school than available seats, any magnet

school that has a neighborhood enrollment of less than 30 percent, shall hold a separate proximity lottery for students living within a 1.5 mile proximity of the elementary magnet school and a 2.5 mile proximity of the magnet high school. Students living within the established proximity boundary of a magnet school may apply to the school through the general lottery or through the proximity lottery. For those magnet schools that have an attendance boundary, a proximity lottery is not conducted, as students who reside within the attendance boundary will be accepted without application. Such a magnet school is the neighborhood attendance area for these students.

b. *Sibling Lottery* – Sibling applicants may comprise up to 45% of the available spaces in a magnet school, magnet cluster school or magnet high school or program. (A sibling applicant has a brother or sister residing in the same household who already attends the school to which they are applying.) If more than 45% of the applicants are siblings, a computerized lottery is conducted to fill 45% of the spaces available. The sibling lottery does not apply to GEAP schools or programs or selective enrollment high schools. Principals are required to verify sibling status prior to the date on which the school's computerized lottery is conducted.

c. *General Lottery* – This lottery applies to elementary magnet schools, magnet cluster schools, and magnet high schools and programs. The general lottery includes all students not considered through the proximity or sibling lotteries. The general lottery does not apply to GEAP schools or programs or selective enrollment high schools.

d. *Principal Discretion* - Where there are more applications to a magnet school, magnet cluster school or magnet high school or program than available seats, each year the principal may at his/her discretion admit students to fill up to five percent of the total available seats in his/her magnet school or program. Students admitted under the principal's discretion must meet all admissions criteria, must follow all application procedures and adhere to all timelines. Further, principal discretion selections must comply with the guidelines of the Second Amended Consent Decree and must be documented by the principal. Principals of Selective Enrollment High Schools may exercise discretion subject to guidelines issued by the Chief Executive Officer. Principal discretion does not apply to GEAP schools or programs.

6. **Second Application Processes** - In the spring of each year, a second application process will be offered for schools that still have space available following the regular application process in the fall. The End-of-Year Minority Transfer Program will be held for those majority-to-minority transfer schools that still have spaces available, and the End-of-Year Citywide Options Program will be held for those magnet schools and magnet cluster schools that still have spaces available. Parents will be notified of application status in accordance with the procedures established for these programs by the Office of Academic Enhancement.

#### **IV. CONTINUATION AND EXIT CRITERIA**

As a general rule, once a student is admitted to a magnet school or program, the student shall have the right to remain enrolled in that school or program until the student reaches the highest grade level offered by that school. This right shall not be affected by changes that might be made regarding transportation guidelines pertaining to magnet schools and programs. Students cannot automatically transfer from one magnet school or program into another. If a student who is enrolled in a magnet school or program is interested in attending another magnet school or program, the student must apply through the standard application procedures set out in this policy. Once a student transfers out of a magnet school or program, if he/she wishes to return to the magnet school or program, he/she must re-apply for admission to school or program through the standard application procedures set out in this policy. In cases where disciplinary reassignment is necessary, appropriate provisions of the Student Code of Conduct must be followed.

## V. TRANSPORTATION


CPS provides transportation to students attending its magnet schools and programs in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and the following guidelines.

1. Application to and acceptance in any magnet school, magnet cluster school or GEAP school or program shall be made without regard to whether a student is eligible for transportation services. Hence, a student may apply and be accepted to a magnet school or program regardless of whether the student would be entitled to receive transportation.
2. Transportation Services are provided to students attending elementary magnet schools and GEAP schools and programs pursuant to the following:
  - a. Transportation service is provided to those students attending an elementary magnet school, who live more than 1.5 miles and less than 6.0 miles from the school in which they are enrolled.
  - b. Transportation service is provided to those students attending a Regional Gifted Center who live more than 1.5 miles from the school in which they are enrolled (with the exception of South Loop and Carnegie, which provide transportation in accordance with the transportation ranges established for the schools by Bureau of Student Transportation).
  - c. Transportation service is provided to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending academic centers that are located within high schools. Transportation service for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending academic centers shall be provided based on the following:
    - (i.) the Bureau of Student Transportation shall establish bus routes for the academic centers with designated pick-up locations;
    - (ii.) no bus route shall require a student to ride on the bus for more than sixty (60) minutes each way; and
    - (iii.) in order to use available bus transportation, students must get to one of the designated pick-up locations, which could be a significantly greater distance from students' residences than are the neighborhood school sites used for magnet school transportation.
  - d. Transportation service is provided to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students attending IB Preparatory programs. Transportation service for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders attending these programs shall be provided based on the following:
    - (i.) the Bureau of Student Transportation shall establish bus routes for the IB Preparatory programs with designated pick-up locations;
    - (ii.) no bus route shall require a student to ride on the bus for more than sixty (60) minutes each way;
    - (iii.) in order to use available bus transportation, students must get to one of the designated pick-up locations, which could be a significantly greater distance from students' residences than are the neighborhood school sites used for magnet school transportation.
  - e. Transportation is provided to students attending any classical schools who live more than 1.5 miles from the school in which they are enrolled and who reside within the transportation ranges established for classical schools by Bureau of Student Transportation.
  - f. The Majority-to-Minority Transfer program provides elementary students with an opportunity to attend schools in an integrated setting. School bus transportation will be provided only where

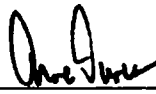
existing bus routes are currently available. If no existing bus route is available, students will be provided with bus passes for use on public transportation.

4. If a student is accepted to a magnet school that is not accessible, and the student will be enrolled in the nearest accessible magnet school that has a comparable program, then the six-mile transportation limit will not apply if the closest accessible magnet school is further than six miles from the student's residence.
5. If a student enrolls in a magnet school, becomes homeless, and chooses to remain at the magnet school, then the six mile transportation limit will not apply.
6. Students receiving transportation services will be transported to and from school to attend the regular school day.
7. Transportation services are not provided to any student residing less than 1.5 miles from the school they are attending, unless a safety hazard exists within the minimum transportation distance. Parents requesting transportation within the 1.5 mile area must complete the "Request for Exception Application for Determination of Serious Safety Hazard" form and return it to the school principal. The request must be approved by the Management Support Director with any appeals going to the Office of Elementary Schools and Areas.
8. Transportation services are not provided to students in the 9th through 12th grades attending any magnet high school or any magnet program at the high school level.

**Reviewed for Consideration:**


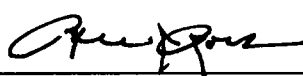
  
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**Barbara Eason-Watkins**  
Chief Education Officer

**Respectfully Submitted:**

  
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**Arne Duncan**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Noted:**

  
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**Pedro Martínez**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Approved as to Legal Form:**   
  
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**Patrick J. Rocks**  
General Counsel