

**ESTABLISH KINDERGARTEN AS THE ENTRY-LEVEL GRADE
FOR BEASLEY MAGNET SCHOOL**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board establish kindergarten as the entry-level grade for Beasley Magnet School.

DESCRIPTION:

Background: Currently, Beasley Magnet School ("Beasley") is the only Chicago Public School magnet school where first grade is the entry-level grade. Beasley is a citywide magnet school serving grades 1-8 and also houses a Regional Gifted Center serving students in grades K-8. Admissions at these grade levels are administered through the Options for Knowledge application and selection process. Beasley also operates a Child Parent Center serving pre-school students, ages 3 and 4. Admissions to Beasley's preschool are administered in accordance with Child Parent Center guidelines, which require all participants to reside in a designated Title I neighborhood.

Currently, Beasley provides three kindergarten classrooms: one classroom for Regional Gifted Center kindergarten students, and two general kindergarten classrooms for any students selected on first-come, first-served basis. Historically, many Child Parent Center students have requested enrollment in one of Beasley's two general kindergarten classrooms. These students were then required to submit an Options for Knowledge application in order to continue at Beasley for the first grade. Students in the Regional Gifted Center kindergarten did not submit an application to continue at Beasley for first grade because kindergarten is the entry-level grade for the Beasley Regional Gifted Center.

In order to minimize confusion in the admissions process to Beasley, the Office of Academic Enhancement recommends establishing a magnet kindergarten program at Beasley and establishing kindergarten as the entry-level grade for Beasley. In doing so, two additional magnet kindergarten classrooms will be added for the 2012-2013 school year.

Enrollment: Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, Beasley shall establish a magnet kindergarten program and the entry-level grade for Beasley Magnet School shall be kindergarten. Students currently enrolled in Beasley's general kindergarten program for the 2011-2012 school year will not be required to submit an Options for Knowledge application to continue their enrollment at Beasley in the first grade. Except as the foregoing, the admissions process to Beasley for the 2012-2013 school year and beyond shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Board's Admission Policy for Magnet, Selective Enrollment and Other Options for Knowledge Schools and Programs. Admissions to the Beasley Child Parent Center will continue to be in accordance with Child Parent Center guidelines. Students from the Child Parent Center who wish to attend Beasley for kindergarten must apply through the Options for Knowledge application and selection process.

Financial: Beasley will encumber additional quota positions for the kindergarten expansion. An increase to the FY 2013 budget of \$128,600 is necessary to fund additional classrooms, materials and supplies.

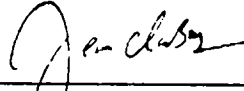
FY 2013 funding is contingent upon budget appropriation and approval.

Approved for Consideration:



Noemi Donoso
Chief Education Officer

Respectfully submitted:



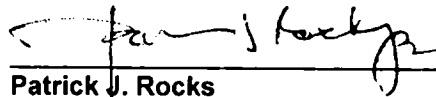
Jean-Claude Brizard
Chief Executive Officer

Noted:



David Watkins
Chief Financial Officer

Approved as to Legal Form 



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel