

Students

Application and Admission to Magnet Schools

A. Purposes of Magnet Schools:

The chief purposes of the magnet schools are to assist in managing enrollment and the district's integration standard, as defined in Policy 5117.1, while providing educational options. Magnet schools will be evaluated regularly to determine their effectiveness in addressing stated purposes.

Specifically, magnet schools are designed to:

1. Stabilize integration, as defined in Policy 5117.1, in the Stamford Public Schools;
 - Manage changes in enrollment;
 - Provide educational choice and offer innovative programming through curricula themes and/or alternate strategies to meet district educational standards.

B. Definitions:

1. District-wide Magnet Schools – These schools serve students from throughout the district and do not have an assigned attendance area.
2. Zoned Magnet Schools – These schools serve students from throughout the district and have an assigned attendance area. Students residing in these areas typically attend the magnet schools without applying via the lottery process.
3. Preferred Attendance Area – Preferred attendance areas include streets so designated by the Board of Education to manage enrollment. Preferred attendance areas include streets outside of but near to the attendance zone for a magnet school that are so designated by the Board of Education to manage enrollment. Students residing in these areas are assigned to a non magnet school. They must apply to the magnet schools via the lottery process and are given priority status. They are invited to the magnet schools in accordance with their lottery numbers. Once magnet school seats are exhausted, these students must enroll in their assigned non magnet schools.
4. Targeted Recruitment – At times, students residing in attendance areas associated with non magnet schools expected to be over enrolled or out of balance, as defined in Policy 5117.1, may be given targeted recruitment status. These students will be granted priority status in the admission process to the magnet schools and will be selected in accordance with their lottery numbers.

C. Application and Admission:

1. In order that all magnet schools are consistent in application and admission procedures, the application procedures:
 - Shall be centralized
 - Shall be determined and approved by the Board of Education
 - Shall be managed by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee
2. Information will be posted and distributed to inform families of magnet school opportunities, application procedures, and deadlines.
3. Application to magnet schools is open to special education students on the same basis as other students in the Stamford Public Schools.
4. Magnet schools will not screen applicants or determine admissions by the use of special admissions test, auditions, or requirements to submit portfolios or collections of past work; or by reference to test scores, academic records, attendance or discipline records, or by use of teacher recommendations parent letters, or interviews of applicants.
5. Admissions to magnet schools shall be controlled to ensure that magnets balance enrollment and promote the district's +/-10% integration standard, as defined in Policy 5117.1, at each of the public schools.

D. Priority Admission Procedures:

1. Sibling Status:

Younger siblings of enrolled magnet school students will be granted priority admission to the magnets attended by their siblings. Such status requires that the magnet school applicant a) have a sibling who is enrolled in the magnet school to which the applicant seeks admission, and b) who will continue to be enrolled in the magnet school for at least one school year when the applicant will be enrolled. For this purpose, "siblings" are defined as children who live in the same household with a common parent. Older siblings may be admitted to the magnet school as classroom space allows.

2. Preferred Attendance Area Status:

Elementary students who reside in "preferred attendance areas" as designated by the Board will be granted preference in admission to the respective magnet schools as classroom space allows.

3. Targeted Recruitment Status:

Target recruiting will be used at times for the purpose of managing enrollment and promoting the +/-10% integration standard at all schools.

Order of Admission:

In keeping with the purposes of magnet schools, students will be admitted in the following order:

1. Students residing in the attendance area of a zoned magnet school
2. Students with siblings attending a magnet school
3. Students residing in the preferred attendance area of a magnet school
4. Students assigned to a school targeted for recruitment to a magnet school
5. All other applicants

E. Continued Enrollment in Magnet Schools:

1. Once admitted to a magnet school, students are expected to remain in that school at least until completion of their first school year. They are entitled to remain in the school without reapplying until they complete the highest grade in the school.
2. Students who are assigned to a magnet school based on their residence in an attendance area and relocate to a new residence in another attendance area during the school year will be allowed to complete the school year at the magnet school, as long as there is no violation of contract limits on class size or the stated purposes for magnet schools, as defined in Policy 5117.1. These students may apply through the lottery to continue in the magnet school in the following school year.

F. General Expectations of Magnet Schools:

1. Students in magnet schools shall be subject to the same discipline policies and practices as all students in the Stamford Public Schools.
2. Magnet school students shall be eligible to participate in all extracurricular activities offered by the school they attend without special wait periods or requirements.
3. Transportation of magnet school students will be provided under the same rules that apply to students in other schools.

BOE Policy #5117.2

Adopted
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STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Stamford, Connecticut

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