

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: Policy IP

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF ADVANCED STUDIES AND PROGRAMS

MAGNET PROGRAMS

A. PURPOSE

To establish clear procedures and criteria governing the development, application, assignment, transportation, and enrollment processes for all Magnet Programs in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

1. The Superintendent shall develop Magnet Program options for consideration and approval of the Board of Education. The Program options shall reflect the following:
 - a. A balanced assignment and programming approach throughout the school system;
 - b. Where applicable, a multi-year program implementation timeline;
 - c. A county wide plan and timeline for the enrollment of students into Magnet Programs;
 - d. Applicable data in support of the programming options; and
 - e. All associated staffing, professional development, transportation, materials of instruction, and facility needs/costs.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. ***Magnet Program*** – a program with a specialized curriculum or one with an emphasis on instruction that is different from that generally offered in other schools throughout a designated geographic area, drawing students in accordance with established criteria and admission process that may, or may not, comprise a school’s entire curriculum offering. For students in Magnet Programs, matriculation occurs when students are accepted into a Magnet Program.
2. ***Prime Arts*** – categories of general arts areas of study for which a student can audition for and participate in while enrolled in the Performing & Visual Arts

Magnet Middle School Program.

3. *Arts Majors* – the specific areas or pathways of study for which a student can audition for and participate in while enrolled in the Performing & Visual Arts Magnet High School Programs.

D. PROCEDURES

1. The AACPS Division of Advanced Studies and Programs shall publish dates, times, and locations of Magnet Program public information sessions and shall distribute this information to potential applicants and their families through a variety of communication vehicles. The Division of Advanced Studies and Programs shall take additional measures to attract and recruit students from underrepresented student populations.
2. Minimum Qualifications for Magnet Program applicants are published and distributed and include the following requirements for all Magnet Programs:
 - a. Interest in participating and commitment to the Magnet Program and school;
 - b. Good academic standing and attendance as established by the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs; and
 - c. Meeting the requirements of one of the application pathways (see below).
3. All students who meet the minimum qualifications shall be encouraged to apply to and participate in Magnet Programs. The Division of Advanced Studies and Programs shall take steps to ensure that support is offered and provided to students and families who may need assistance throughout the application, selection, and enrollment process.
4. Two Pathways shall be established to ensure that students have access to Magnet Programs. If a student completes the Magnet application process and participates in a lottery, no preferential treatment is given for entering through either Pathway I or Pathway II.
 - a. Pathway I is for students who meet the minimum qualifications for Magnet Program applicants. Pathway I applicants have a minimum of a “B” average, score proficient or advanced in applicable state assessments, or score in the 60th percentile or above on nationally normed tests in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Pathway I applicants complete the online application, participate in a Magnet Program interview, and when applicable, the audition process.
 - b. Pathway II is for students who may not meet the minimum qualifications for Magnet Program applicants. Pathway II applicants have a minimum of a “C” average, score proficient or advanced in

applicable state assessments, or score in the 60th percentile or above on nationally normed tests in Reading, Language Arts, and Mathematics. Pathway II applicants complete the online application, and are then invited to participate in an academic interview to determine further eligibility.

- c. If a student successfully completes this academic interview and is recommended to proceed through the magnet application process, the student shall continue the application process by participating in a Magnet Program interview and when applicable, the audition process.
5. The following describes the Magnet application process:
- a. Application – The online application shall include but shall not be limited to, a student’s name, current school, legal guardian, and preferred Magnet Program(s). All student data shall be gathered from the student data system and shall be transferred electronically to the application. If an applicant does not have access to a computer at home, an application may be completed at school or another designated area where a computer with internet access is available.
 - i) As part of the online application, an applicant shall agree to participate in the entire application process which may include interviews, audition(s), and a lottery (should the number of eligible applicants exceed the number seats available for any Magnet Program).
 - ii) A student/parent/guardian shall agree online to support his/her student’s application.
 - iii) A third party may assist any student or parent/guardian who needs help to understand or complete the application.
 - b. A student may apply to one or more Magnet Programs. If a student applied to more than one Program, the student shall submit separate applications for each.
 - c. Student Magnet Identifying Number – Once a student applies online to be considered for any Magnet Program, a Student Magnet Identifying Number shall be generated and assigned. This number shall be used to identify and track students applying from AACPS and those applying from home school, independent schools, and/or other school systems. If a student applies for multiple Magnet Programs, a Student Magnet Identifying Number shall be generated for each program.
 - d. Audition – A student applying for the Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program shall be required to complete an audition for the major/prime arts area(s). A rubric for evaluation for the student’s

skill potential shall be used. A student applying to the Performing and Visual Arts Magnet Program may only audition for two major/prime arts.

- e. Eligibility – Once it has been determined that a student meets all qualifications for admission to a Magnet Program, the student shall be marked as “eligible” in the online system by a designee of the Assistant Superintendent of Advanced Studies and Programs.
6. Lottery – If the number of applicants exceeds the number of seats available, all students marked as “eligible” shall be entered into a lottery.
 - a. A third party vendor shall be contracted to conduct a lottery using the Student Magnet Identifying Number for each student.
 - b. The vendor shall provide an ordered, electronic list of accepted students by Student Magnet Identifying Numbers in accordance with the number of seats available.
 - c. The vendor shall provide an ordered waiting list of applicants. If a student on the accepted list declines a seat offer in the Magnet Program, a student from the top of the waiting list shall be invited to participate.
 7. Accepted students shall have a minimum of five (5) school days to accept or decline a seat in a Magnet Program, but may only accept one seat. Once a seat is accepted, the student is officially accepted to the Magnet Program and agrees to participate in further registration and program requirements.
 8. Transportation service shall be authorized across established attendance areas for student attending a Magnet Program. Parents/guardians shall provide transportation to/from consolidated bus stops.
 9. Out of area transfers within AACPS shall be subject to established transfer policies approved by the Board of Education. Magnet Programs shall operate in compliance with Board policies and regulations.
 - a. Transfers shall not be approved to attend a Magnet Program outside of an established Magnet attendance zone.
 - b. Students who transfer to AACPS as a result of a military reassignment shall be given consideration for admission into a Magnet Program, in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children (MIC3).
 - c. Students who reside in Anne Arundel County, but who do not currently attend an AACPS school, are eligible to apply to the Magnet Programs. Upon application, students attending schools that are not in AACPS shall be assigned a home school in accordance with the

guidelines established by the AACPS Planning Office. It is the responsibility of the applicant and his/her parent/guardian to provide documentation for the evaluation of minimum qualifications, as well as proof of residence.

10. Magnet Withdrawal -When accepting a seat in a Magnet Program, a student commits to enrolling in the Magnet Program and meeting all Magnet-related requirements for one school year. Students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior and maintain a minimum grade point average and attendance to remain in the Magnet Program. If a student does not comply with established behavior, attendance, and academic standards, a probation and/or dismissal from the Magnet Program may occur.
 - a. Students exhibiting behaviors, actions, or other deeds that cause concern, violate school policy, and/or result in suspension are placed on disciplinary probation and shall agree to the terms of a contract, which include mandatory parent/guardian communication and a mandatory parent/guardian/teacher/counselor conference.
 - b. A student who is placed on disciplinary probation must remain on probation for the remainder of the school year. If further inappropriate behaviors are exhibited, a student shall be dismissed from the program at the end of the academic year. At the Magnet Program's discretion, students may be dismissed immediately from the Magnet Program if actions endanger others and/or disrupt the school or program-sponsored events.
 - c. Magnet students' grades are monitored by a team at each school after interim, marking period, and semester grade reporting. A student who does not meet the minimum academic standards shall be placed on academic probation, which includes mandatory parent/guardian communication, a parent/guardian/teacher/counselor conference, and participation in academic support programs such as tutoring and mentoring.
 - d. A student who is placed on academic probation must remain on probation for the entire semester and may remain on probation longer. Students making significant improvements, but not meeting the minimum academic requirements may be removed from mandated support programs, but may still participate in these programs. At the Magnet Program's discretion, as determined by the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs, a student may remain on probation and continue enrollment in the Magnet Program if significant improvement and effort has been evident.
 - e. A student who is dismissed from a Magnet Program, and whose home school is not the Magnet school, must return to his/her home school.

E. STUDENT APPEALS PROCESS REGARDING STUDENT PLACEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL

1. Parents/guardians wishing to appeal a decision denying enrollment in or withdrawal from a Magnet Program must do so in writing within ten (10) school days of the decision to the school principal. The written appeal must be received by the principal within the required timeframe. A response shall be issued within ten (10) schooldays.
2. If the student/parent/guardian remains dissatisfied with the decision of the principal, then the decision may be appealed in writing within ten (10) school days to the Magnet Office in the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs. The written appeal must be received in the office within the required timeframe. A response shall be issued within ten (10) schooldays.
3. If the student/ parent/guardian remains dissatisfied with the decision of the Magnet Office in the Division of Advanced Studies and Programs , the decision may be appealed in writing within ten (10) school days to the Assistant Superintendent for Advanced Studies and Programs. The written appeal must be received in the office within the required timeframe. A response shall be issued within ten (10) school days.
4. If the parent/guardian remains dissatisfied with the decision of the Assistant Superintendent for Advanced Studies and Programs, the decision may be appealed in writing within (10) ten school days to the Superintendent. The written appeal must be received in the office within the required timeframe. A response shall be issued within (15) fifteen school days.
5. At all levels of the process the “school days” time limit may be waived by the school system in exigent circumstances, particularly when the complaint occurs at the end of the school year and resolution is required prior to the start of the new school year.
6. If the parent/guardian remains dissatisfied with the decision of the Superintendent of Schools or designee, the decision may be appealed to the Board of Education in writing within thirty (30) calendar days. The written appeal must be received in the office within the required timeframe and must be addressed to the President, Board of Education of Anne Arundel County, 2644 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401. At its sole discretion, the Board shall determine how the appeal shall continue.

Regulation History: *Developed by Superintendent 03/19/14.*
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Note previous regulation History: Replaces AR615, issued on 04/04/2007.