

MAGNET SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS POLICY

Code **IHBHB** Issued **11/10**

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the superintendent's operation of magnet schools, including limitations.

Note: This policy does not apply to any charter school.

A magnet school is any school operating in whole or in part with an attendance area which includes, or is eligible to include, more than one constituent district. A magnet program is any program at any school which operates with an attendance area which includes, or is eligible to include, an attendance area of more than one constituent district. The superintendent shall make available to the public each year the schools covered by this policy.

For each student who attends a magnet school or magnet program, the superintendent must verify, at the time of initial admission, the student's residence and domicile pursuant to policy JFAAA. For attendance in subsequent years, the superintendent need verify only that the student continues to reside in the magnet school's attendance area. For example, for any magnet school serving the entire county, the superintendent needs to verify only that the student who wishes to continue to attend in years subsequent to initial admission remains a resident of Charleston County.

The superintendent may not permit any student to continue to attend a magnet school if, during the student's first year of admission, the student has not cooperated in providing documentation needed for verification. At least three written warnings about being refused re-enrollment must be given, over at least a three-week period, before a student is denied admission for lack of residence verification for a subsequent year.

The superintendent may not permit a student at a magnet school to be disciplined or penalized for conduct by being returned to the school which serves his/her residential zone. If a student's conduct deserves discipline or penalty, the student must be disciplined through processes at the magnet school.

No magnet school may admit students on a first-come, first-served basis. ~~Each school must~~ **The District will** open a time period for accepting applications of not less than two weeks. If there are more qualified applicants than positions available, then a random lottery must be used to select those students admitted.

If a magnet school or magnet program serves all students who reside in a constituent district and serves students from outside the constituent district, if space is available after taking students from inside the constituent district, the random lottery may be applied to only those who reside outside the constituent district.

The superintendent may not use admission rules or procedures that have not been publicized at least one month prior to the application period, and may not apply any admissions procedure or criteria retroactively. The superintendent shall provide an admission preference for siblings of current students to promote family involvement in a school.

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Additionally, a specified number or percentage of available seats at countywide magnet schools will be offered to students who meet entrance criteria and also attend a feeder school located in Charleston County that has a poverty index of 80% or higher.

The superintendent may not use race to admit or deny admission to any magnet school or magnet program or to favor admission to any student on the basis of race. However, in order to enhance access to all students at any magnet school or program, the superintendent may create admission processes for students using race-neutral criteria.

Adopted 11/29/10

Legal references:

A. S.C. Acts and Joint Resolutions:

1. 1976 Act 340, Section 5 - An Act to create the School District of Charleston County and to abolish the County Board of Education of Charleston County; powers and duties of board.

B. U.S. Supreme Court:

1. Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1, 127 S. Ct. 2738 (2007).