Mission of the Program/Focus

The Magnet/Magnet Cluster Program goals are designed to support district initiatives while offering a learning environment with strong academic programs. **Our goals are:**

- **Goal #1:** Students in magnet and magnet cluster schools receive an instructional program that offers 21st century learning skills and enriched content integrated into the core curriculum through the theme offered, which enables students to meet their academic potential.
- **Goal #2:** Magnet and magnet cluster students make significant academic gains.
- **Goal #3:** Magnet and magnet cluster programs are recognized as a best practice model for providing rigorous and enriched instruction, as well as emphasizing higher-level skills assessment including problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, and research skills to students enrolled in magnet and magnet cluster schools.
- **Goal #4:** Magnet and magnet cluster schools have teachers with a diverse skill set and knowledge base who are trained to meet the unique learning needs of students and commit to ongoing professional development offered by the district.
- **Goal #5:** Magnet and magnet cluster schools inform and engage the community at large, including parents, and are marketed by the school through a myriad of venues.

Key Components

The Magnet and Cluster Program model is structured to provide rigorous, enriched, and differentiated instruction to students.

High quality magnet programs offer:

- Choice options for students with varying aptitudes, interests, and talents
- Diversity within schools (includes racial, economic, special needs, etc.)
- Rigorous academic standards in a learning environment that engages students
- Innovative instructional practices and systemic reform

We develop common practices across programs which include:
- Implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) (DuFour)
- Development of theme-based curriculum integrated units
- Use of cooperative learning and brain-friendly teaching strategies
- Developing strategies for marketing the school (as needed)

**Entry Criteria**

**The Selection and Placement process is managed by the Office of Access and Enrollment.**

a. Magnet Schools: All students interested in attending a magnet program must submit a standard application (online or paper) to the Office of Access and Enrollment during the application period, which usually runs from October 1st through mid-December for enrollment the following school year. Students are selected through a random, computerized lottery process conducted by the Office of Access and Enrollment. Most magnet schools have citywide attendance boundaries and all students in the district are eligible to apply.

b. Magnet Cluster Schools: Magnet cluster schools have established attendance boundaries. Students living within the established boundaries are automatically accepted into the magnet program without the submission of a standard application. If space is available, magnet cluster schools can accept students outside their attendance boundary. Students wishing to attend a magnet cluster school who do not live in the attendance boundary must submit a standard application during the application period which usually occurs October 1st through mid-December each year for enrollment the following school year.

**Course Overview and Scheduling**

Key courses and scheduling differ per specific Magnet and Magnet Cluster program. Overall, schools are expected to “Scream the Theme” and integrate the magnet standards and theme throughout the school and core curriculum.

**Personnel Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Position Needed</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Designee to serve as the Magnet Coordinator and/or Magnet Cluster Lead Teacher.</td>
<td>This designee will serve on the Instructional Leadership and CIWP teams to integrate the magnet theme throughout the school and core curriculum. These tasks</td>
<td>The Department of MGIB funds a variety of positions based on program.</td>
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</table>
include collaborating with the school’s magnet committee to ensure the development of strong curriculum integrated units, complete the annual Request for Proposal (RFP), monitor student success, attend magnet PDs, and transfer PD information back to the teachers in the magnet program.

### Professional Development

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type of PD Needed</th>
<th>For Whom</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Training: Lead Teachers will participate in various professional development sessions to strengthen their school-wide implementation of program specific Standards and Practices that align to Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment</td>
<td>Magnet Coordinator/Magnet Cluster Lead Teacher</td>
<td>MGIB provides the PD, schools provide sub coverage for their Magnet/Cluster Lead to attend</td>
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### Impact & Implementation

If implemented with fidelity, here are the impacts on teaching and learning:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction</td>
<td>Magnet Program teachers will utilize instructional strategies and practices (PLC’s, curriculum integrated units, inquiry based learning, etc.) to add rigor and challenge students. These practices support the use of the higher levels of depth of knowledge and engage students in their own learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>Magnet Program teachers will develop curriculum integrated units (key components outlined by Magnet administrator) and</td>
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enrichment activities for implementation in the classroom. The units created will provide rigor and challenge for students. Principals will provide opportunities for the Magnet coordinators to have common planning time to participate in curriculum planning and articulation.

| Assessment          | The building magnet team will assist teachers as they implement, assess, and reflect on the various units taught. Curriculum integrated units will be stored and shared electronically. Teaching of curriculum integrated units will be evident in all classrooms. |

**Other Central Office Supports or Involvement**

- Certain Magnet programs such as Fine and Performing Arts and World Language receive PD and program-specific supports from their respective Departments.

**Sustainability**

In order to sustain a Magnet or Magnet Cluster program, schools must complete an annual Request for Proposal three-step process. This process includes reflection, action planning, and the submission of a commitment form.

School visits will be conducted to look for various aspects of the program model’s Standards and Practices: a) high levels of transference of practices shared in the magnet and cluster PD series, b) evidence of curriculum integrated units, c) content and theme connections, and d) evidence of authentic student work.

Magnet Program schools also need comprehensive marketing plans in order to recruit and communicate the program components and application process with staff, parents, and community members.