

ADMISSION TO ELEMENTARY MAGNET SCHOOLS

All elementary students shall be eligible to attend an elementary magnet school. Students shall not be selected based upon academic standing or talent. Special education students will be admitted on the same basis as other students, subject to their individual IEPs (Individual Education Programs). Students will be selected for admission to a magnet school based upon priorities and conditions established by this policy and implementing regulations.

I. Student selection procedures for each magnet school shall be designed to promote a compelling district interest in diversity within the student population and to reduce, eliminate, or prevent minority group isolation. To the maximum extent practicable student selection procedures will be based upon race neutral criteria to achieve these goals. Race will only be used in student selection only to the minimum extent required to reduce, eliminate, or prevent minority group isolation and only after it has been demonstrated that race-neutral alternatives would not be similarly effective in meeting the goals.

1. The target enrollment for each school is 600 students. A significant number of students at each school shall reside outside of the magnet zones. Admission shall be subject to space limitations at each school and at each grade level.

2. Students who apply for admission to a magnet school will be admitted according to the following priorities:

Priority I: Students whose home attendance area school is a magnet school;

Priority II: Gifted students for whom an IEP has been completed showing the placement to be appropriate and the siblings of such students who reside in the same household as the admitted gifted student, unless magnet school placement is not appropriate based upon the sibling's IEP;

Priority III: Students from sending schools who will most promote social and economic diversity at the magnet school based upon the difference between the applicant's home attendance area school's residential population SES (determined by the number of students served a free or reduced price lunch) and the magnet school's residential student population SES; and

Priority IV: Students residing outside of USD 501.

D. Generally, a timely application of a higher priority shall be determined before granting an application of a lower priority. If there are more applicants than spaces available, a random selection procedure will be used to choose between applicants similarly situated.

E. Stability in the student enrollment at each magnet school is desired to promote the educational program. A parent's desire that all elementary age siblings residing in

the same household attend the same elementary school shall be a factor in the admission decision.

6.The available placements shall be filled based upon the following subcategories: First, by continuing students as defined by the implementing regulations; second, by siblings of continuing students who reside in the same household as the continuing student but who did not attend the particular magnet at the end of the prior year; and third, all other applicants.

7.If an application of a USD 501 resident student for attendance at a magnet school is approved, transportation will be provided by the school district in accordance with the district's general policy regarding transportation.

8.The school district's administration, under direction of the superintendent, shall be responsible for developing and annually reviewing regulations to implement this policy.

9.Appeals regarding magnet school admissions may be requested by the student's parents or guardians in writing. A review committee composed of members appointed by the school district's administration will review the decision. The decision of the review committee shall be final.

10.In special circumstances the review committee may grant an exception and place a student in a school other than the school he or she would attend under this Policy and Administrative Regulation 8045-1 or allow changes in the school of attendance other than at the times provided by student transfer Policies and Administrative Regulations.