

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT MAGNET AND SPECIALTY PROGRAM POLICY

This policy applies to all magnet schools, magnet programs, and specialty programs designated herein ("magnet and specialty programs") and students in prekindergarten through grade twelve (PK-12) enrolled or seeking enrollment in such programs.

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the process and procedures necessary to access magnet and specialty programs in the Little Rock School District (LRSD). LRSD magnet and specialty programs enable students in kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) to attend a school with a themed program. A proposed magnet school's theme may be determined based on district need or community survey.

LRSD magnet and specialty programs are funded through federal, state, and local funds like other schools within the LRSD to meet the needs of students. Additional funds may be received through the Magnet Schools Assistance program at the U.S. Department of Education (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended, Title IV, Part D). Teachers are allocated to magnet and specialty programs based on the same formula used for all other schools.

LRSD magnet and specialty programs are under the supervision of the Student Registration Office. Implementation of this policy and applicable procedures are monitored by the Senior Director of Student Services.

LRSD magnet and specialty programs embody the belief that to deliver excellence for tomorrow, a myriad of programs and curricula should be available for students to cultivate varied interests and talents. Magnet and specialty programs are offered in both open-zoned and zoned schools. Open-zoned schools do not have a designated attendance area for students, but instead, encompass the entire LRSD attendance area.

DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy:

"Open enrollment" means a period during which a student may change one's selection of school assignment or program.

"Parent" means a student's parent, guardian, or other person having lawful control of the student, including a foster parent or person standing in loco parentis.

"Sibling" means each of two (2) or more children having a parent in common by blood, adoption, marriage, or foster placement.

"Sibling preference" means assignment granted, if seats are available, because a student has a sibling enrolled in the requested school or magnet or specialty program.

“Staff preference” means assignment granted, if seats are available, because a student has a parent employed full-time at the school where the requested magnet or specialty program is located.

LRSD OPEN-ZONED MAGNET AND SPECIALTY SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	STUDENT CAPACITY	GRADES SERVED	THEME/FOCUS
Booker Arts Magnet	2016 Barber Street	408	K-5	Performing and visual arts
Carver Magnet Elementary	2100 East 6th Street	260	K-5	Traditional skills, science, and mathematics
Forest Heights STEM Academy	5901 Evergreen Drive	719	K-8	Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
Gibbs Magnet Elementary	1115 West 16th Street	285	K-5	Foreign languages and international studies
Mann Middle	1000 East Roosevelt Street	810	6-8	Performing and visual arts and science
Parkview High	2501 John Barrow Road	1,111	9-12	Performing and visual arts and science
Williams Elementary	7301 Evergreen Drive	486	K-5	Traditional skills

LRSD MAGNET AND SPECIALTY PROGRAMS WITHIN ZONED SCHOOLS

SCHOOL	ADDRESS	STUDENT CAPACITY	GRADES SERVED	THEME/FOCUS
Central High	1500 Park Street	2,347	9-12	Gifted and talented and international studies
Dunbar Middle	1100 Wright Avenue	535	6-8	Gifted and talented and international studies

ADMISSION

A parent of a student seeking assignment to a magnet or specialty program at any level (elementary, middle, or high) in the LRSD, must submit a request through the School Choice Gateway system according to the deadlines specified and published by the LRSD Student Assignment Office.

In order to be eligible for admission to a magnet or specialty program:

- The student must meet the legal age to enter school;
- The magnet and specialty program request must be completed by a parent of the student; and
- The magnet and specialty program request must be completed truthfully and include all requested information.
 - Falsifying information will result in disqualification of the student for admission into any magnet or specialty program.

The parent of a current magnet program student who wishes to request admission into a different magnet program must submit a new request for that program.

Changes to a submitted application can be made via the School Choice Gateway system.

Submitting a magnet and specialty program request does not guarantee admission.

Student assignment is determined by the selection process.

Magnet and specialty program requests may only be submitted during open enrollment for the upcoming school year.

A student with an approved magnet and specialty program request must confirm acceptance within ten (10) calendar days. A parent may withdraw a submitted request any time prior to the student's assignment.

Once assigned to a magnet and specialty program, it is not necessary to submit a new request each year.

The Student Registration Office will be responsible for all optional enrollment assignments.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

A student must successfully complete an elementary program to enroll in a magnet or specialty middle school program. A student must successfully complete a middle school program to enroll in a magnet or specialty high school program.

Due to select and/or accelerated curricula, eligibility criteria may be established to ensure student success in magnet and specialty programs. All eligibility criteria must be approved by the LRSD Board of Directors.

Eligibility criteria apply to all students requesting or being considered for assignment to a magnet or specialty program.

Eligibility criteria must be met prior to the selection process and determine which students are eligible for assignment to a magnet or specialty program.

Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee admission.

Requests for students who do not meet the applicable eligibility criteria will not be considered for admission.

Students identified as Gifted and Talented that are not enrolled in LRSD, but live within the boundaries of LRSD, must provide documentation of Gifted and Talented identification in order to meet eligibility criteria.

Contact the specific magnet or specialty program department if you have questions about eligibility criteria (*i.e.* audition, essay, portfolio, etc.).

MAGNET OR SPECIALTY PROGRAM	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (in addition to complete application)
Booker Arts	None
Carver Math and Science	None
Central High Gifted and Talented	Identified as Gifted and Talented
Central High International Studies	None
Dunbar Gifted and Talented	Identified as Gifted and Talented
Dunbar International Studies	None
Forest Heights STEM	<p>Complete Student Interest Survey to gauge students' area(s) of interest.</p> <p>Students entering kindergarten take the Early Numeracy Assessment and Early Literacy Assessment. A student's score does not bar admission into Forest Heights STEM.</p> <p>Students entering grades one through eight (1-8) must: (a) Have earned a final grade of "C" or higher in the prior year's science and math courses, or (b) Have completed the prior year's science and math areas with an equivalent designation (<i>i.e.</i> Meets standards) and have a recommendation from the student's prior year's teacher.</p>
Gibbs International Studies	None

Commented [CS(1): New evidence-based student interest survey needs to be developed.

Mann Middle Arts	None
Mann Middle Science	None
Parkview Arts Band	Minimum of one (1) year Band experience as evidenced by school transcript or letter of recommendation from a private entity. Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric*
Parkview Arts - Dance	Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric* including questionnaire
Parkview Arts - Orchestra	Minimum of one (1) year in an instrumental music class Letter of recommendation from current orchestra director or private teacher Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric* Students who play violin or viola must provide their own instrument. School-owned cello and string bass assigned based on availability.
Parkview Science	Attend interview with parent Incoming 9 th graders must have earned a semester grade of "C" or better in current science and 8 th grade level math course Other incoming students must have earned grades of "C" or better in previous science and math course.
Parkview Arts - Speech & Drama	Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric*
Parkview Arts - Visual Art	Recommendation from a visual art teacher or someone knowledgeable about the student's visual art abilities Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric* including interview and portfolio (see portfolio requirements)
Parkview Arts - Vocal Music	Minimum score of 60% on audition rubric* including application, essay, and interview
Williams Traditional	None

Commented [CS(2)]: Rubric needs to be developed.

SELECTION PROCESS

Only students who meet eligibility criteria participate in the magnet and specialty program selection process. The magnet and specialty program selection process applies to all magnet and specialty programs.

The program(s) selected on the magnet and specialty program request are considered in numerical order (1st, 2nd). If the first choice program is not available, the student will

be placed in the selection process for the second choice program. If a second choice program is not selected, or if the second choice program is not available, the student will be assigned to the school in their attendance area.

Sibling preference for assignment to a magnet or specialty program is granted *first* to students with siblings who are currently enrolled in and attending the school of interest and will maintain their enrollment. Sibling preference is not granted for siblings of students who will be exiting an organizational level -- transitioning from elementary to middle school or from middle school to high school.

Staff preference for assignment to a magnet or specialty program is granted *second* to a student with a parent who is employed full-time at the requested school. (Children of the employee only. Extended family does not apply.)

All other available seats in a magnet or specialty program NOT at Parkview High School, are granted *third* through general assignment in the initial computerized random selection process (*i.e.* scramble, lottery, drawing) during the open enrollment period.

For students seeking enrollment in a magnet or specialty program at Parkview High School, 25% of the remaining seats available after preferences are awarded, will be awarded to students based on audition rubric scores, beginning with the highest score until the allotted seats are full. The remaining available seats will be assigned through the random selection process.

An applicant pool (*i.e.* unnumbered waiting list) will be compiled of the names of students not selected during the selection process.

A subsequent selection process (using established preferences and random selection) utilizing the applicant pool will be held within three (3) weeks of the start of each semester to fill unexpected vacancies.

The applicant pool is cleared after the subsequent selection process is completed in the second semester.

Each school's admission processes are completed separately.

No individual may assert pressure or attempt to unduly influence the admission of any student. Any interference with the selection process must be reported to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee and may result in the disqualification of the student into magnet and specialty programs.

ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

Each student selected for assignment to a magnet or specialty program will be sent notification through postal mail or email, whichever is indicated as the preferred method of communication at the time of application.

Enrollment is finalized when a parent has completed the registration process.

A student who enrolls in a magnet or specialty program must remain in the program for a minimum of one (1) school semester unless extenuating circumstances arise.

Commented [CS(3): Recommend developing a new evidence-based student interest survey to be completed by students upon enrollment and used to direct Student Success Plans.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

A parent of a student enrolled in a magnet or specialty program must sign acknowledgement of specific student expectations detailed within the *Magnet and Specialty Program Parent Agreement*.

VOLUNTARY WITHDRAWALS

A parent may voluntarily withdraw a student from a magnet or specialty program any time after completion of one (1) school semester or when extenuating circumstances arise.

A student being voluntarily withdrawn from a magnet or specialty program that wishes to re-enroll in a magnet or specialty program, must submit a new magnet and specialty program request in accordance with this policy.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUATION IN MAGNET OR SPECIALTY PROGRAMS -
- PARKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL**

MAGNET OR SPECIALTY PROGRAM	CONTINUATION CRITERIA
Parkview Arts - Band	Maintain a grade of 60% or higher
Parkview Arts - Dance	Maintain a grade of 60% or higher
Parkview Arts - Orchestra	Maintain a GPA of 2.0 each semester or attend Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP). Participate in all after-school performing events or have an excused absence.
Parkview Science	Maintain a grade of 60% or higher
Parkview Arts - Speech & Drama	Maintain a grade of 60% or higher
Parkview Arts - Visual Art	Maintain a grade of 60% or higher
Parkview Arts - Vocal Music	Maintain a grade of "C" or higher in all vocal music classes. Audition for All-Region choir each year and participate in all required performances. Progress to performance ensemble after completion of beginning choir. Maintain a GPA of 2.0 each semester or attend Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP).

	<p>Maintain academic eligibility to compete in AAA events including All-Region Choir, Choral Performance Assessment, and Invitational Festival</p> <p>Receive no more than two (2) suspensions per school year.</p>
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ACADEMIC PROBATION AND REVIEW -- PARKVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

If a student enrolled in a magnet or specialty program at Parkview High School does not meet the expectation of maintaining a grade of 60% or higher in the magnet area, the student and parent will be notified of the student’s current grade, the magnet program expectation, and the scheduled Academic Review Conference. The student will be placed on Academic Probation.

Initial Academic Review Conferences will consist of a meeting with the student, parent, school counselor, school administrator, and any other necessary individuals, to determine necessary interventions and/or services to aid the student in meeting the expectation of maintaining a grade of 60% or higher. The interventions and/or services to be provided will be documented in the student’s Student Success Plan and will be monitored for nine (9) weeks. If a student enrolled in a magnet program at Parkview High School continues to not meet the expectation of maintaining a grade of 60% or higher after interventions have been provided for nine (9) weeks, the student and parent will be notified of the student’s current grade, the magnet program expectation, and the scheduled Academic Review Conference.

Follow-up Academic Review Conferences will consist of a meeting with the student, parent, school counselor, school administrator, and any other necessary individuals, to evaluate the student’s progress.

Following the Academic Review Conference, a decision may be made to:

- (1) Discontinue the interventions and/or services being provided and remove the student from Academic Probation;
- (2) Maintain, modify, or change the interventions and/or services being provided and remove the student from Academic Probation;
- (3) Maintain, modify, or change the interventions and/or services being provided and extend the student’s probationary status for an additional nine (9) weeks;
- (4) Recommend forced withdrawal of the student from the magnet program. A recommendation of forced withdrawal from a magnet program at Parkview High School must be approved by the principal.

FORCED WITHDRAWALS

LRSD magnet and specialty programs are programs of choice and students are not guaranteed continued enrollment in a program. A student being forced to withdraw from the magnet or specialty program may enroll in the school for their attendance area. A student being forced to withdraw from a magnet or specialty program that would like to enroll in a different magnet or specialty program, must submit a new magnet and specialty program request in accordance with this policy. Notification of the decision to require a forced withdrawal will be sent to the parent.

APPEAL

A parent who wants to appeal a forced withdrawal decision must submit a written request to the principal of the school within 72 hours of the decision notice. The appeal will be heard within five (5) school days by a panel of no less than three (3) individuals appointed by the district board of directors. School staff who participated in the student's Academic Review Conference(s) shall not serve on the appeal panel. The decision of the panel will be communicated to the parent in writing within two (2) school days. The student will continue at the magnet or specialty program until the decision of the board is communicated to the parent.

MAGNET AND SPECIALTY PROGRAM ANNUAL REVIEW

The administrator(s) of each program shall annually prepare a self-evaluation of the program to support continuation of the program and identify any areas for improvement as well as justification for any request for additional funding or expansion of the program. The self-evaluation shall include a review of student application, admittance, and performance data, including without limitation feeder patterns and withdrawals.

The evaluation and supporting documentation shall be reviewed by a Magnet Review Committee of no less than three (3) individuals appointed by the board of directors. The Committee shall also include a staff member from the Arkansas Department of Education if appointed by the Commissioner of Education. The Committee shall make recommendations to the board of directors regarding continuation of the programs and any changes to this policy supported by the data presented, including without limitation eligibility criteria. Any changes to policy must be adopted by the board in accordance with standard procedures.

Magnet and Specialty Program Parent Agreement

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

By choosing to enroll your child in a magnet school, magnet program, or specialty program, you are choosing a RIGOROUS ACADEMIC PROGRAM within a STRUCTURED and DISCIPLINED ENVIRONMENT. Carefully review the following commitment statements and initial each one to indicate you have read and understand each item.

Initial each:

_____ I understand that my child has been selected to attend _____
_____. This means I am choosing to place my child
at the named magnet school, magnet program, or specialty program, which has a
unique set of standards and expectations to which my child and I must adhere. I
will work to support my child and collaborate with school staff in achieving these
expectations.

_____ I understand that my child's enrollment at the selected school is not final until
his/her final report card has been submitted, all eligibility criteria have been met,
and registration has been completed.

Parkview High School Parent Use Only

_____ I understand that my child's continued enrollment at the selected school is
dependent upon maintaining a grade of 60% or higher in the magnet or specialty
area.

Parent Signature:

_____ Date _____

Parent Name – Printed: _____