

Magnet Plan



2018-2019

District Magnet Workgroup Members

School Board Member

Assistant Superintendent

Parent

Director of Communications and Government Relations

Director of Planning

Director of Transportation Services

Director of Construction Services

Director of Career and Technical Education

Director of Office for Leading and Learning

Elementary School Principal

Middle School Principal

High School Principal

Elementary School Assistant Principal

Middle School Assistant Principal

High School Assistant Principal

Program Coordinator, Office for Student Supports Programs and Services (School Counseling)

Program Coordinator, Office for Leading and Learning (Magnet)

Senior Supervisor, Office for Leading and Learning (DEP)

Senior Supervisor, Office for Student Supports Programs and Services (DSFP)

Assistant Director, Office for Student Supports Programs and Services

**Instructional staff will be included for content/programmatic input and expertise*

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Overview

Mission Statement:

To provide students and families a choice of highly specialized, innovative systems and programs that meet a variety of student needs and interests while preparing them for college, career and life.

Purpose:

Magnet programs/schools offer students the opportunity to learn through an interest, gift, talent or skill. Magnet programs/schools focus on a magnet theme, such as a specific academic area, a particular career or a specialized learning environment. They allow parents and students to choose a school, other than their attendance boundary school, to participate in the magnet theme that best fits their academic and learning needs. Parents can then consider the individual learning styles and interests of their children. All magnet themes are designed to provide a rigorous curriculum that will lead to students being college, career and life ready. Students committed to a specific theme are given priority to continue in that theme (continuity) when the theme is offered at the next academic level (elementary to middle, middle to high).

Magnet programs/schools are identified by Pasco County Schools as an essential strategy in our efforts to provide educational options for families. They seek to increase academic achievement, increase graduation rates, increase school attendance, and increase parent engagement.

Goals:

- Provide Pasco families throughout the district equitable access to magnet options
- Increase student engagement and academic performance
- Redistribute student average daily membership (ADM) from over capacity schools to under capacity schools
- Integrate diverse ethnic, racial and socio-economic students
- Utilize each faculty and staff to their potential
- Utilize each school facility to its potential

Pasco County Schools will recognize the following types of magnet structures:

Dedicated Magnet School- a school site that implements a magnet theme or themes across all grades and does not have a defined attendance boundary, but may have a preference area. All students who wish to attend the school must apply for and be accepted in the school through

the Student Application lottery process. All students enrolled in a magnet school must participate in the magnet program(s) theme. The district, through the magnet boundary review process, shall determine whether a magnet school will or will not have a preference area.

Magnet Schools- a school site where the magnet theme is implemented school-wide. All students attending the school participate in the thematic learning components of the program. Students who live outside of the attendance boundary must complete an application and a lottery system is used to determine which student applicants will attend the school.

Magnet Program- a school site where the magnet theme is implemented within the school, but not all students participate. Students apply to the program and are accepted based on a lottery system. Some magnet programs may have established criteria for entry.

Academy or Program Without Magnet Status- a school site where the academy or program is available within the school but not all students participate. Students may need to apply to the program based on requirements. Parents may exercise their School Choice privileges in order to attend the school that houses the program.

Magnet Organizational Structure

Organizational structures are formal systems that allow programs to be developed and monitored while facilitating working relationships that engage all stakeholders. The Magnet Plan is based on Data Driven Decisions, is intended to be implemented in a Collaborative Culture and is ultimately accountable for providing students access to classrooms with High Impact Instruction.

District Level Organization: Pasco County Schools will support magnet programs/schools through cross-departmental collaboration. A District Magnet Workgroup will meet on a regular basis to work the Operational side of the District Magnet Plan and monitor the elements identified in the Implementation section. Through the implementation of the District Strategic Plan, the District will set a clear vision and identify priorities that will guide the work of the District Magnet Workgroup.

The District will support magnet services development and improvement by constructing interrelated connections in these key areas: work processes and systems, leadership, decision-making, resources and staff. The District organizational structure will support the goals and objectives of the District Magnet Plan.

District Community Organization: The community will be given opportunities through District sponsored public and virtual forums to provide innovative ideas, feedback, and suggestions for improvement. When appropriate, parent, student and business representatives may also be asked to serve on the Magnet Workgroup.

Site Level Organization: Magnet sites will designate a staff member, either instructional or administrative, to execute the processes and programmatic work involved in a magnet school/program. This work includes curriculum development, theme integration, theme visibility, professional development, recruitment, and compliance reporting. This designee will report to a School Magnet Workgroup at least twice a year on the magnet program's progress toward defined goals and suggest any recommended changes. The schools SAC Committee will serve as the school's Magnet Workgroup. School sites will also use public and virtual forums to engage its community in discussions about the magnet theme at that site.

Magnet Operations

Magnet Theme Locations

Rationale:

Each school year Pasco County Schools will consider if, how and where to

- add new magnet programs/schools
- revise themes
- replicate successful programs
- add new magnet themes

By strategically placing magnet themes, integration is more likely to occur and travel time will be minimized.

Providing a continuum of magnet themes will also influence magnet school/program locations. By providing a continuum of programs, students may have the option of continuing a specific area of study or attending other magnets that best meet their interests. However, research indicates that robust and successful magnet program themes are typically created and developed by the school community. Therefore, innovative stand-alone programs that do not yet have a continuum will be encouraged and used to supplement traditional magnet offerings. It will be the responsibility of the District Magnet Workgroup to help nurture and monitor innovative stand-alone magnet themes and, if proved impactful, work to create a continuum as the District expands magnet services.

Although pipeline themes offer continuous and contiguous curriculum, there is a risk in assigning a theme to a school for the sake of creating a pipeline without first developing support for the theme within the school community (administration, staff, students and families). Research clearly shows that community and staff buy-in are essential for successful program implementation. Community surveys will be implemented and used as critical data when making decisions on magnet theme locations.

The following criteria will also be used when considering sites for adding or replicating a magnet program/school:

- School leadership
- Racial/Ethnic/SES composition
- Facility readiness/capacity
- Enrollment capacity
- Geographic location

- Unique corporate sponsorship/community support
- Budget

Each year an invitation will be sent to schools to submit a Request for Magnet Status application. The application will ask schools to include the following criteria:

- Research and rationale in choosing the magnet theme/pedagogy
- Data that indicates the school's potential for integration, or how the magnet theme location will increase a student's opportunity to attend an integrated school
- At least two letters of support from community partners/leaders
- Projected budget for year one and year two implementation
- Surveys that indicate families with the school's attendance boundary are in support of the magnet theme
- Surveys that indicate staff are in support of the magnet and theme

Invitations for Request for Magnet Status applications will be released in July and will be submitted for review by September 15th. Schools will be notified in November if the proposal for the following year is accepted. If accepted, the school can begin a planning and marketing phase.

The District Magnet Workgroup will review the application and school and district data based on these criteria, and bring the findings to the Superintendent's Staff for review and consideration.

Magnet Zones

Magnet zones may be established to clarify the attendance boundaries of each magnet program/school. These zones identify where transportation services can be provided and the area magnet programs/schools can market to parents and students. Magnet zones will be reviewed on a regular basis to determine how the District can utilize boundaries to promote access and integration, and maximize transportation. The magnet zone review process is led by the Director of Planning Services and includes all stakeholders. Considering recommendations from the District Magnet Workgroup, the Director of Planning Services along with the other stakeholders will determine if a magnet program/school will have a preference area. Preference areas receive priority in the Student Application lottery process.

All students within a magnet zone interested in attending a magnet program must apply for and be accepted through the Student Application process. At least 25% of the seats in a magnet program, or 15% in a magnet school, must be made available for students who live outside of the school's attendance boundary.

Magnet Preference Areas

After careful review of attendance, mobility, and application data, Planning Services will make preference area recommendations to the District Magnet Workgroup who will include any recommendations in their report to Superintendent's Staff. Planning Services will include in their recommendation a designated geographic area as a preference area for a specific magnet program/school. The size of the preference area will depend on a range of factors, including the capacity of the school, the density of students living in the geographic area around the school and the demographics of the students in the geographic area. If a magnet school has a preference area, those students living within the preference area will be prioritized in the district's Student Application lottery process.

Elimination/relocation

There may be times when a magnet theme at a school will need to be removed. Students enrolled in a magnet program/school whose theme is being removed will be permitted to remain in that school until they complete the highest grade offered or, if in good standing, be given admission to a school or program that offers a like theme.

Application and Implementation

RATIONALE

School Level:

Using the process below, any school may request magnet program status for any current program they wish to transform to a magnet theme. Schools may also request to begin a new program and have it identified as a magnet theme.

Process

1. Submit a Magnet Status application.
2. The Magnet Workgroup will review applications in September and October and provide recommendations to Superintendent's Staff for approval based on the following:
 - ✓ **Application:** Fully completed and submitted on time.
 - ✓ **Theme Identification:** Identified as a high need (district data) or high interest area (parents/student survey), or ties to a unique community feature or resource.
 - ✓ **Equity of Access:** There may be at least one additional school, located on the other side of the Veterans Expressway, which has agreed to implement the same magnet theme within two years of the applicant's launch.
 - ✓ **Administrative Support:** Signed statement by the school administrative team explaining interest in specific academic area, career area or specialized learning environment and indicating support for implementation and maintenance of program status.
 - ✓ **Instructional Staff Support:** Evidence that staff are in support of the instructional delivery necessary to the implementation of the theme.
 - ✓ **Implementation Plan:** Detailed plan of implementation including dedicated funding; professional development; program goals and objectives; action plan for each objective; timeline; and evaluation criteria. (Must include goals and objectives addressing student academic performance.)
 - ✓ **Student Access:** Evidence that at least 15% of a magnet school's seats or 25% of the magnet program seats are available for students outside of the school attendance boundary.
 - ✓ **Family Engagement:** The Magnet Workgroup defines family engagement as more than a series of events. Schools are to include a plan to engage the family members of all magnet theme students with specific plans to include families outside of their attendance boundary and a focus on students identified as members of underrepresented sub-groups. The OSSPS Program Manager for Parent and Community Engagement should be used as a resource by schools when creating their family engagement plan.

- ✓ **Qualified Staff:** Evidence that 60% of the instructional staff assigned to a magnet theme curriculum are certified and have met, or within a designated amount of time will meet, all of the themes required/recommended training (some programs may require 100% of the teachers implementing a specified curriculum or instructional method be certified or have completed a course of study).
- ✓ **Data:** Assessment/performance data on current students matching the magnet theme targeted population.

District Magnet Workgroup

The District Magnet Workgroup may request the implementation of a magnet program under the circumstances below. The workgroup will bear the responsibility of finding a school site willing to implement the magnet theme and meet all of the required school level criteria.

- Inequity of access to a particular magnet theme
- Survey data indicates the need but a school has not submitted an application
- Opportunity to implement an innovative curriculum/instructional delivery model

Magnet School Status

The Magnet Workgroup will consider magnet school status for a new school under construction and any standing school closed for major reconstruction. The workgroup will submit recommendations to Superintendent's Staff after considering the impact of rezoning students and the need to implement a magnet theme. The Office for Planning Services is responsible for implementing the school board approved procedures of rezoning student attendance boundaries and will facilitate this process.

Maintaining Magnet Program/School Status

All Magnet Programs/Schools will be monitored throughout the year by staff members most directly tied to the magnet theme. All first year Magnet Programs/Schools will participate in a meeting at or near the end of the school year with their Assistant Superintendent and the district staff who are monitoring their magnet theme. The Magnet Workgroup will also review the status of all magnet schools/programs following a three-year cycle monitoring the data points submitted through the application process.

Schools that are no longer meeting the criteria set in their original application will be at risk of losing magnet status. The Magnet Workgroup will make loss of status recommendations to Superintendent's Staff for a final decision. The workgroup will include with any loss of status recommendation an action plan detailing steps the school and district will take to turn the magnet program/school around, or an action plan on how best to transition the magnet theme away from the current school or transfer it to another school site. The impact on students will be the primary concern.

Magnet Themes

A survey will be offered on a regular basis to families and business partners in order to help identify possible magnet themes. Themes may be selected from successful programs implemented in schools around the state, country or world. They may also come from local innovative programs.

Once a theme is identified for implementation it becomes both the school and district's responsibility to educate the community about the various themes that are available for consideration. Communication should occur in multiple formats including town hall meetings and/or community events.

Facilities

The District will provide leadership in all aspects of facility design and development that will result in facilities that offer the best teaching and learning opportunities for participants, as well as successful student achievement outcomes for each individual Magnet School or Magnet Program.

In order for facility improvements and/or new facility designs to make a successful impact it is important that magnet schools/programs are clearly defined and include, at a minimum, detailed information on desired space, an explanation of what the space will be used for, and, if applicable, the equipment or materials that will be used in the desired space. Once the various programs and space needs are defined, an analysis of each potential facility can be made to determine which site offers the best opportunities to align with the magnet theme requirements.

Once the information mentioned above is provided, the workgroup will expand membership to include individuals from within the District, as well as outside of the District who have in-depth experience and knowledge in the specific programmatic requirements associated with each Magnet Program facilities request. Through this collaboration the group will begin investigating several schools to determine which existing facility offers the best opportunity to add the program(s), and therefore, to begin establishing cost projections for any remodeling efforts (or new schools) which would be required.

Budget Recommendations

Budget recommendations will be made, considered and approved during the application process. This will include but not be limited to:

- Facility needs
- Personnel
- Materials/Equipment
- Professional Development
- Transportation
- Marketing

Student Selection

Magnet Applications and Processes

The goal of the District's magnet student selection process is to provide a fair and equitable process that allows students' access to magnet themes which best fit the needs and interests of students. The student selection process may take into consideration, among other factors, an effort to diversify the student demographics of magnet theme participants and the district wide balancing of school enrollment. This goal and these considerations will be met through the use of an application and lottery selection process.

Depending on the Magnet Theme or Magnet Program/School, a weighting system will be implemented during the student selection process (lottery). Some magnet themes may have specific entrance criteria beyond interest. If so, students must meet entrance requirements to be eligible for the lottery-style selection process. Only one (1) online application per student will be accepted. Applications allow for students to select three magnet theme choices. Duplicates or revisions to the application CANNOT be accepted. There are no paper applications at the district level. Access to a computer will be made available for families without online access at their zoned school. In addition to our school sites there is usually opportunities for online access at public libraries.

All required areas of the Student Magnet Application form must be completed. Failure to complete all sections and/or submitting false information may result in the application not being processed. Applicants should also remember to update email information if and when their email addresses changes during the Magnet student selection process.

Families applying for more than one (1) child to attend a magnet theme must have a separate application for each student (even though the application asks for sibling names, this does not constitute an application for those siblings listed). Siblings must reside in the same household as the student who is applying, or documentation of joint custody must be provided. Acceptance of siblings whose educational needs can be met will be based upon the availability of open seats in the grade level for which the student is applying. Siblings of students who already attend a magnet theme at a school outside of their attendance boundary must submit an application.

Magnet theme schools may not have ESE services for all students.

A lottery will be run soon after the student application window is completed and parents and students will be notified of their application status via email notifications. Applicants with multiple magnet theme requests will only be invited to accept one of their choices. Students

not assigned to a magnet theme of their choice will be placed on a waiting list. *Waiting lists are not kept year to year.*

Submitting an application does not guarantee placement into a magnet theme.

Parents/students who receive an invitation via email to attend a magnet theme program/school must accept the invitation by the deadline stated in the email notification from Pasco County Schools. The district will only recognize acceptance via the email notification as indication of acceptance into a magnet program/school. Students whose invitations are not accepted within the time period specified will be placed at the bottom of the magnet theme's lottery list.

If a student is invited to a magnet theme location and has an eligible sibling who applied, but was not invited, the parent must contact the district immediately following the acceptance email to claim sibling preference. Our goal is to place siblings in the same school when possible.

Out-of-District Applications:

Requests to attend a Pasco County School from an out of district resident will be considered only after decisions are finalized for Pasco's students.

Priorities:

The following priorities may be applied as part of our magnet student selection process. Additional priorities may be included for magnet themes with unique needs or requirements.

Continuity - Students attending a magnet theme that is offered at the next level of promotion (5th grade to 6th grade; 8th grade to 9th grade).

Sibling – A student who is a sibling of an accepted student and will attend the magnet theme school site at the same time as the accepted student. Note that ESE services may not exist at all magnet theme school locations. If a student is invited to a magnet theme location and has an eligible sibling who applied, but was not invited, the parent must contact us immediately following the acceptance email to claim sibling preference. Our goal is to place siblings in the same school when possible.

Over Crowded Zoned School- Students whose zoned school is overcrowded.

Proximity - Students within a designated distance/area of the magnet theme site.

Professional Courtesy - Students of an employee of Pasco County Schools who works in the feeder pattern of the magnet program/school to which they are applying.

Student Integration –Students of certain demographic groups when integration of underrepresented sub-groups is warranted.

Standard Application – Students who are residents of Pasco County and are not impacted by the priorities listed above.

Available Seats

No later than one week prior to the student selection lottery, respective Superintendent’s Staff will provide the final number of magnet theme available seats for their respective programs/schools. If applicable, the number of seats will be broken down by grade level. The number of magnet theme seats will be identified ensuring compliance with state and federal mandates. The lottery selection process will be used with weighted priorities as established in the magnet criteria for each individual school.

Withdraws/Transfers

Students may fill an open magnet theme seat within five (5) school days after first quarter progress reports are issued.

Students may withdraw from a magnet theme seat within five (5) school days after first quarter progress reports are issued. Students who withdraw from a magnet theme and live outside of the magnet theme school’s attendance boundary must return to their zoned school.

Communication Plan

The goal of the Magnet School Communication Plan is to build awareness of Pasco County's educational options by staying connected to the community.

Guiding Principles

1. Marketing of magnet schools will not be at the expense of other district schools.
2. Marketing will be timely and consistent among schools.
3. Marketing will include a variety of mediums, including paid advertising.
4. Marketing will be inclusive of all socioeconomic and ethnic constituents.
5. Each magnet school will develop beneficial relationships with like-themed local, state, and national organizations and businesses.

It will be the shared responsibility of the Office for Communications and Government Relations and the Magnet Workgroup to communicate the Magnet School Plan and establish social media and websites for each magnet school/program.

Transportation

Dedicated Magnet Schools

Sanders Memorial Elementary School (SMES)

Bus transportation will be provided for magnet students within a designated magnet zone in accordance with District approved procedures. Students will be provided neighborhood stops from within the established transportation boundary and hub stops will be provided for students living outside the transportation boundary. Hub stops will be located at District school sites. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the designated hubs or for transporting students directly to SMES. Bus stops located within the transportation boundary of SMES cannot be used by students living outside the boundary. All students will be eligible for transportation, except for students living within 2 miles of the school, unless based on statute, hazardous walk conditions exist.

Wendell Krinn Technical High School (WKTHS)

Bus transportation will be provided for magnet students within a designated magnet zone in accordance with District approved procedures. Hub stops will be provided for students living more than two miles from the school. Hub stops will be located at District school sites. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the designated hubs or directly to WKTHS. There are no neighborhood stops for WKTHS. All students will be eligible for transportation, except for students living within 2 miles of the school, unless based on statute, hazardous walk conditions exist.

Magnet Schools and Programs

Bus transportation will be provided for magnet students within a designated magnet zone in accordance with District approved procedures. Students will be provided neighborhood stops from within the established attendance boundary and hub stops will be provided for students living outside the attendance boundary. Hub stops will be located at District school sites. Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from designated hubs or directly to the school. Students living outside the attendance boundary are not permitted to use stops located within the attendance boundary. All students will be eligible for transportation, except for students living within 2 miles of the school, unless, unless based on statute, hazardous walk conditions exist.

Academy or Program Without Magnet Status

Transportation is not provided to students living beyond the school's attendance boundary.

Magnet Hubs

Pasco County Schools will provide an adult at each hub stop for elementary school students who will be responsible for monitoring the area. The adults may be paid Pasco county staff members or school volunteers vetted through our volunteer program.

As the District's Magnet System grows, efforts should be made to acquire or lease small areas of land near major thoroughfares for magnet hub sites. This may reduce travel time for magnet students and relieve congestion at magnet hubs based at school campuses.

Bus Stops and Times

Bus stops and times will not be available until after enrollment decisions are made and bus transportation schedules are developed, typically late July. Parents of students living outside of a school attendance boundary must determine if they will choose to use transportation services via the hub system. For those opting out of the hub system, a request can be made anytime throughout the year to begin using this service. Please complete the Use of Magnet Hub System form found at the transportation website.

Magnet Timeline

July

- Magnet application released to schools

August

- Strategic communication/marketing to promote the magnet application process (social media, news outlets, website, phone calls, etc.)

September

- 15th - deadline for magnet application
- Magnet applications reviewed by workgroup
- Strategic communication/marketing to promote the magnet application process (social media, news outlets, website, phone calls, etc.)
- Plan and organize for Pasco Pathways Expo

October

- Plan and organize for Pasco Pathways Expo
- Magnet applications reviewed by workgroup
- Strategic communication/marketing to promote the magnet application process (social media, news outlets, website, phone calls, etc.)
- Magnet applications reviewed by workgroup
- Magnet application recommendations taken to Superintendent's Staff

November

- Magnet application status shared with schools
- Initial seats for each program/school by Superintendent's Staff and Principals
- Determination of which programs/schools will be included in the magnet application windows
- Pasco Pathways Expo held on the East and West Sides
- Strategic communication/marketing to promote the magnet application process (social media, news outlets, website, phone calls, etc.)
- School tours for parents and students available at magnet sites

December

- Secondary Application Window

- School tours for parents and students available at magnet sites

January

- Elementary Application Window
- Elementary and Secondary applications reviewed
- Number of seats finalized by Superintendent's Staff for schools/programs
- School tours for parents and students available at magnet sites (elementary only)

February

- Elementary and Secondary status notification and acceptance period

March

- Feedback loop on the process and revision to the Magnet Plan as needed

April

- Feedback loop on the process and revision to the Magnet Plan as needed

May

- Feedback loop on the process and revision to the Magnet Plan as needed

June

- Magnet Plan sent to the School Board for approval
- Magnet Workgroup members identified and meeting dates set
- Website and Catalog finalized for upcoming school year