

## **DRAFT 5 - Jefferson County Public Schools**

### **Magnet Program Standards**

The JCPS Magnet Program Standards are intended to provide individual schools and the district central office with indicators of magnet program quality and success based on national research. These standards also align with a number of JCPS priorities, such as equity and diversity, student choice, and meaningful learning. The JCPS Magnet Program Standards promote program excellence by identifying characteristics that magnet schools and programs should strive to achieve.

Domains I through V should be used by schools to review their magnet programs as well as to develop proposals to the Magnet Office for new or substantially revised magnet programs. Domain VI standards allow the district to self-assess its own services and support to magnet programs in schools. The processes and expectations for program application and review can be found in the document *Guidance to Schools: Processes for New and Existing Magnet Programs*.

#### **I. Diversity**

##### **A. Student Recruitment and Selection**

1. The magnet program has an annual recruitment and marketing plan that encourages students to apply to and attend the program.
2. The school sets clear, equitable entrance and assignment criteria aligned with district policies, which may include the use of a lottery. Every student who meets established entrance criteria and boundary assignments can apply to and be considered for the magnet program.
3. The magnet program works with the district to ensure that communication resources are available in a variety of languages to support diversity and under-represented families.

##### **B. Diversity and Equity**

1. The magnet program student population reflects the demographic diversity of the community as demonstrated by the JCPS diversity index. (MOVED FROM I.A. above)
2. The magnet program has a public statement or guidelines describing how the program supports the student diversity objective in the district Magnet Mission statement.
3. Students of various backgrounds (e.g., English language learners; Exceptional Child Education students) have access to and can participate fully in the magnet program<sup>1</sup>.

#### **II. Innovative Curriculum & Professional Development**

##### **A. Theme & Curriculum Alignment and Fidelity**

1. The magnet theme is clearly defined and integrated into all subjects, courses, and improvement initiatives, and there is consistency and visibility of the theme throughout the school and program.
2. The magnet theme and curriculum is articulated (i.e. clear progressions exists between grades/courses).
3. The school environment can sustain the magnet theme appropriately (e.g., STEM equipment; multimedia; performing arts facilities).

##### **B. Professional Development**

1. The school has a plan for all faculty members, including those who teach English Language Learners and Exceptional Children, to regularly receive high-quality, job-embedded instructional training aligned to the theme and needs of the school.
2. Collaboration with colleagues, the curriculum specialist, and the district magnet coordinator is a structured part of intentional planning related to the magnet theme.

#### **III. Student Achievement and Support**

##### **A. Student Support for Program Success**

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<sup>1</sup> If a program is the only one of its kind, the district should assist the school with providing resources to support students who demonstrate the capacity to be successful. If mirror programs exist, the district should dedicate additional resources (e.g., ECE or ESL unit) to at least one site.

Adapted from Magnet Schools of America, *Standards of Excellence*, 2016.

1. The magnet program offers multiple supports and opportunities for all students to adapt to and succeed in the magnet program's special learning environment.
2. All school improvement efforts (e.g., School/District Improvement Plan(s); Turnaround efforts; Title I Plan) integrate the magnet theme into the curriculum with appropriate supports for interventions and access.

**B. Student Achievement**

1. Each student has the opportunity to display theme-related, developmentally appropriate work (e.g., project-based learning; yearly course project; capstone at end of program).
2. Student success is measured using multiple indicators aligned with the theme in addition to core academic achievement.
3. The magnet program continually collects and analyzes data from various sources (e.g., student voice; school and district family satisfaction surveys; classroom observation; graduation rates; college/career readiness rates) to identify strengths and areas for program growth to improve student success.
4. The school has demonstrated evidence of reducing racial predictability and disproportionality in academic and behavioral outcomes. (MOVED BACK FROM I.B. above)

## **IV. High-Quality Instructional Systems**

**A. Leadership & Educator Development**

1. Magnet leadership champions the magnet theme and mission ensures that the magnet theme is implemented with fidelity.
2. Leadership decisions are made after collaborative input with stakeholders that support the magnet theme, mission, and vision.
3. Teacher recruitment, selection and retention policies are designed to meet the unique needs of the magnet program, and enable the school to hire the best individuals to support theme instruction and integration.
4. The magnet leadership supports and coaches staff to improve instructional techniques and recognizes excellent instruction.
5. Magnet teachers are evaluated in a manner consistent with district and/or state practices or guidelines.
6. The school has developed a financial plan and demonstrated commitment to sustain and continuously improve the magnet program in the absence of additional district or external funding.

**B. Instructional Alignment and Fidelity**

1. A school-wide philosophy for teaching and learning exists that focuses on delivering instruction in multiple ways (e.g., visual, auditory) using authentic tasks (e.g., student collaboration; problem-solving) aligned to the theme.
2. School-level assessments align to clear theme-based learning objectives, vary in structure (e.g., projects; performances), drive instruction, and provide students feedback to improve success<sup>2</sup>.
3. The magnet program offers students appropriate academic and socio-emotional interventions to ensure student success with the curriculum and theme.

## **V. Family & Community Partnerships**

**A. Community Engagement & Partnerships**

1. Theme-focused partnerships are formed with local businesses and organizations to support and sustain the theme and benefit students, resulting in college and career readiness.

**B. Family Engagement and Partnerships**

1. There is a representative parent advisory group (e.g., SBDM) that makes recommendations about magnet school operations.
2. The school regularly showcases student learning related to the magnet theme for families and the community.
3. The magnet purpose/mission, any criteria for admission or continued student program participation, planning (e.g., School Improvement Plan), and data (e.g., academic progress; student participation in theme-based activities/learning) are transparent and publicly accessible to parents and the community.

<sup>2</sup> In addition to any district- or state-required assessments.

## **VI. District Magnet Support Standards**

1. The district's strategic plan describes how magnet programs support the district's priorities and vision for students and, in turn, how the district supports these programs.
2. District has clearly articulated a plan for magnet themes across grade levels (K-12).
3. The district affords schools latitude in decision-making (e.g., ways to support the magnet theme; resource allocation).
4. The district assists each magnet school with curriculum support and professional development to integrate the theme into all subject areas in several ways (e.g., district staff support; financial commitment for budget proposals for PD and staffing).
5. The district supports and/or facilitates the development of partnerships that enhance the magnet theme(s) within its schools.