

# JCPS School Choice Proposal

Moving forward with equity

Jefferson County Board of Education  
April 26, 2022



# EQUITY

*Access*

*Ease of  
Understanding*

*Diversity*

*Choice*

## School Choice Guiding Principles

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The current Student Assignment plan has not undergone a comprehensive review in almost **40 years**. Historically, the plan has advantaged White affluent families with greater financial and social capital.

JCPS is committed to **co-creating a plan** with our community that ensures that all students have **equitable access** to school choice options within JCPS.

# Current State:

## *Racial Equity*

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## Black and Brown students are...

- More likely to attend a **Title I** school
- More likely to attend an **under-enrolled** school
- More likely to attend a school **further from home** due to assignment
- More likely to attend a **non-magnet** school
- More likely to have a **lower sense of belonging**



# Sense of Belonging: *Research*

## Students with a strong sense of belonging:

- Have **fewer** behavior problems
- Are **more open** to critical feedback
- Take **greater advantage** of learning opportunities
- **Build** important relationships
- Have **more positive attitudes** about their classwork and teachers
- Are **more likely to persevere in the face of difficulty** and do better in school
- Are **more likely to graduate** from high school
- Are **more likely to develop skills and knowledge to succeed** in professional and civic lives

In sum, “When students experience a sense of belonging in a learning environment, we see both immediate and long-term positive consequences for their academic performance and well-being.”

– Healey & Stroman, 2021

# Current State: *Racial Equity*

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## Current System:

- No Choice
- Small disconnected zones
- 90 feeder patterns

## Choice Zone Outcomes:

- 1 in 2 high school students are chronically absent
- Proficiency rates aren't above 30% for middle or high school students
- Lower sense of belonging among African American students

*Student experience and outcomes don't support continuing with current state*

“The best way to predict the future is to create it.”

## Future State Vision

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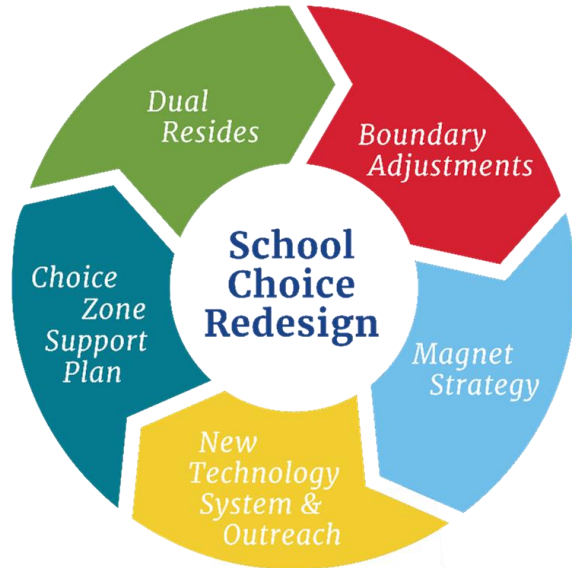
Foster a transparent, trustworthy system of resourced magnets serving diverse student populations

Provide Black and Brown students with a choice to attend thriving, diverse schools close to home with strong programs

Improve experience for all students and families leading with equity in mind and building stronger trust



# How We Get There...



## Dual Resides

- True Choice for families in the Choice Zone
- Alignment of Feeders

## Choice Zone Support Plan

- Staffing, Resources, Funding
- Supporting High Poverty Schools
- Continuous Improvement: Review Process

## New Technology System and Outreach

- SchoolMint Implementation
- Outreach Plan with Targeted Communications
- Clear, Easy to Understand Platforms

## Boundary Adjustments

- Feeder Patterns
- Predictability
- Optimizing for Building Capacity and Programming
- Maintain choice for families not in Choice Zone

## Magnet Strategy

- Magnet Strategic Plan aligned with MSA national standards
- Magnetic Magnets
- Support Structure for Strong Magnets
- Remove School Initiated Exits
- Centralized Lottery
- New, Engaging Magnets (Mirror and Interest-Based)
- Diversity Targets and Goals



# Magnet Strategy

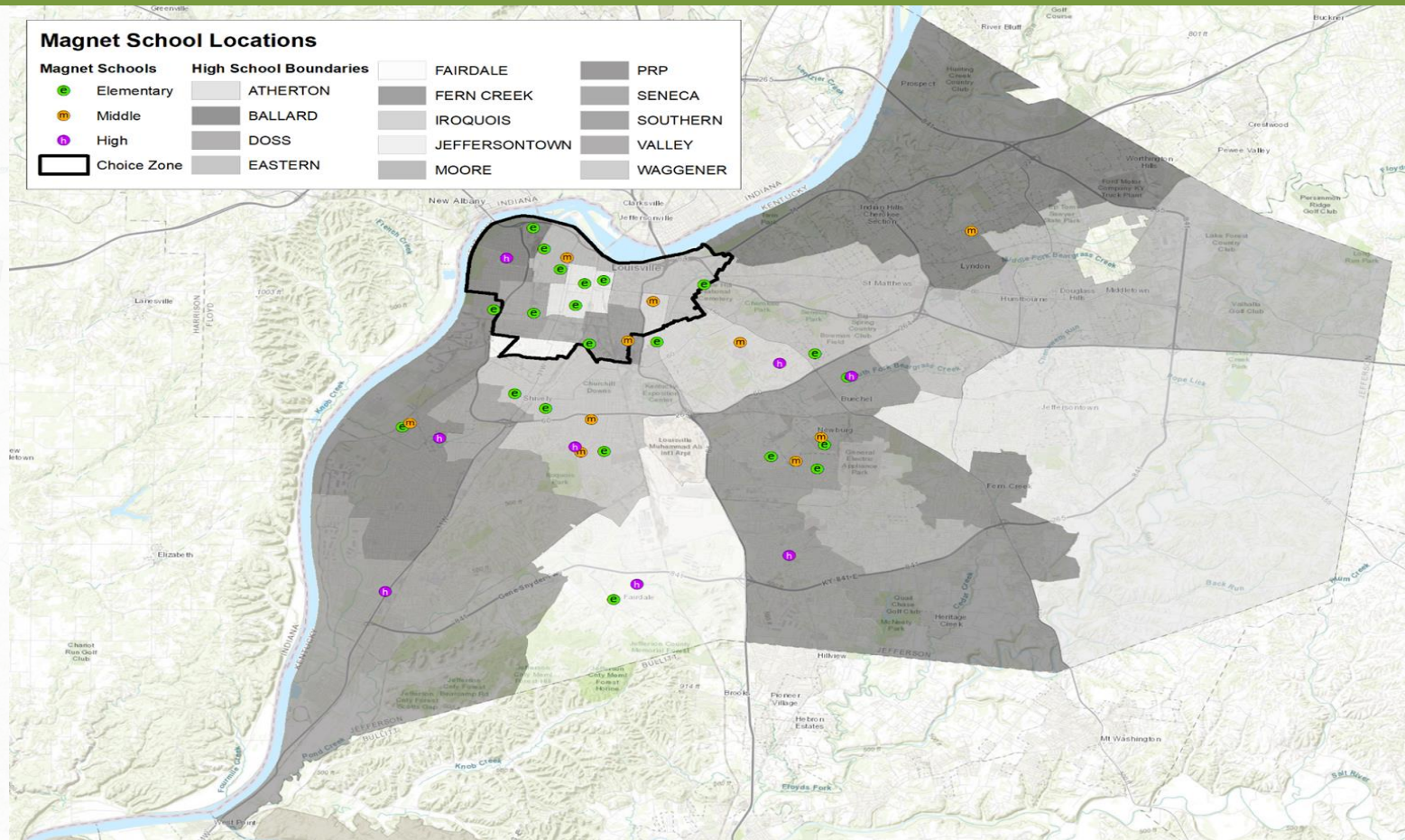
# Current State:

## *Magnet Policies are not Aligned with Best Practice*

- **Limited access** for Students of Color
- **Limited seats** for engaging programs
- **Inconsistent quality** across magnet schools and programs
- **Difficult to navigate** admissions processes
- **Removal of students** by schools through school-initiated exits create equity issues due to bias

# Current Magnets

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# Proposal:

## *Magnet Summary*

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### This proposal will:

- Create a **comprehensive magnet strategy** for systems improvement
- Create a **transparent and trustworthy** system of strong magnets
- Improve **equity and access** in magnet schools and programs
- Clarify the **purpose** of JCPS magnets



# Magnetic Strategic Plan *Highlights*

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## Systems Improvement

- Clarify magnet **purpose** for the District
- Implement JCPS Magnet Program Standards
- Review **non-magnetic** magnets
- Move identified magnet themes to **whole-school** model
- Dedicate **resources** and **support**
- Implement **new magnet redesign** process

## Equity

- Create **Diversity Targets** and Goals
- Remove school initiated **exits**
- **Centralized lottery** for schools that use a lottery
- Align **mirror** themes

## Access

- Replicate **popular magnets**, create new interest based magnets
- Develop new Technology Platform and **Outreach Plan**
- Review and adjust **magnet boundaries**
- Create K-12 **continuation pathways** for themes

# Phase 1– *Magnet Strategy, Year 1–2*

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## Recommendation

## Summary of Proposal

Set Diversity Targets and Goals

Set diversity targets and goals for each individual magnet school and program to create a plan to move the diversity of the program toward the District's demographics

End School Initiated Student Exits

Eliminate the exit process for magnet schools and programs. Families will continue to make a decision on whether to continue in the magnet.

Establish Centralized Lottery for schools that use a lottery

Oversee the lottery process for admission for magnet schools and programs that use a lottery. Once the new technology platform is complete, the lottery process will be conducted by SchoolMint.

Implement New technology platform and Outreach Plan

Transition current Student Assignment System to SchoolMint for the online registration, application, and Parent Place to provide one cohesive platform for families. Implement an outreach plan in targeted zip codes to increase access in the magnet application process.

Shift Open Enrollment to Transfer Process

Remove the Open Enrollment process in the magnet application. Families will continue to be able to access the same high schools through the student transfer application.



# Phase 1– Magnet Strategy, Year 1–2

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| Recommendation  | Summary of Proposal  |
|---|--|
| Clarify purpose for magnets in School Choice framework                          | Adopt a Board policy that lays out the purpose of magnets and procedure that then outlines how we ensure that the purpose is met through a comprehensive magnet strategy.  |
| Review non-magnetic magnets   | Transition non-magnetic magnet programs to school initiative if appropriate, eliminating administrator accountability for theme implementation, magnet resourcing, and district-wide transportation.   |
| Expand magnetic elementary magnet programs into whole-school magnets            | <p>Remove <b>Hawthorne</b> from the cluster and establish full Spanish Immersion magnet with district-wide transportation</p> <p>Consolidate Traditional programs at <b>Foster</b>/Shelby<br/>Consolidate Montessori programs at JF Kennedy/<b>Coleridge-Taylor</b><br/>Create whole-school magnet at <b>Western Middle and Academy @ Shawnee Middle</b></p> |
| Replicate Popular Magnets and Create New Magnets/Expand Interest Based Programs | <p>Create new Interest-Based: <b>Western HS</b> as Coding/Computer Science/STEAM<br/>Phase 2: Replicate Popular Magnet Theme-<b>Visual Performing Arts Elementary School</b></p>   |
| Review magnet school/program boundaries   | Conduct a comprehensive review of magnet boundaries to align with optimal capacity, vertical alignment, and promotes a diverse learning environment (i.e., MST and Traditional)  |



# Phase 2 – Magnet Strategy, Year 3–5

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| Recommendation  | Summary of Proposal  |
|---|--|
| Adopt district procedure for opening new themed school  | Create and adopt a district procedure outlining the process for opening a new themed school, including timelines, cooperating departments, designated tasks, budget considerations, and board approvals. |
| Create new Magnets:<br>Complete K-12 themed pathways  | Examine the number of seats at each grade level for each theme, and adjust magnet school capacity/seats in order to accommodate student interest in continuation of theme.                               |
| Examine High School Magnets: Refine Theme Descriptions and begin AOL Lottery (Interest-Based Magnets) | Label specialized programs that are both magnets and in Academies of Louisville with special term to designate district-wide transportation.   |
| Align horizontally with similar themes (ex: MSTs, STEAM, STEM)  | Align expectations, curriculum, and student experiences at middle school MST/STEM/STEAM programs. Develop model for ensuring future alignment of mirror themes.  |



# Benefits: *Magnet Solutions*

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- Improve **student outcomes** for Black and Brown students
- Ensure magnet schools and programs are **representative** of the District's diversity
- Increase **transparency** and ease of understanding
- Decision making about leaving a school stays **with families**
- Increase **access** and opportunities through additional seats and programs
- Improve **quality** of magnet programming

*Improved Sense of Belonging Leads to Positive Student Outcomes*



# Implementation Timeline

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## The following will be implemented in the 2023-2024 school year

- The proposed dual resides and aligned feeder patterns
- Phase 1 of the magnet recommendations
  - Whole school magnets at Hawthorne, Coleridge-Taylor, Foster, Western MS, Academy@Shawnee MS, Western HS
- Three new elementary schools and two middle schools will open
- Dual resides starts with kindergarten, 6th and 9th graders, all other students can remain at their current school

Changes will be considered based on the findings from the annual summative evaluation process. A comprehensive review of the school choice plan will be implemented every 10 years, aligned with the new census data.



# Moving the work forward: *Timeline*

# Road to the Future State

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## February - March

- Board member presentations and feedback
- District and school leader presentations and feedback



## March - April

- Community/ stakeholder feedback sessions
- Family/Student input
- Board community forum
- Revisions based on input



## May

- Board work session
- Board presentation of final school choice proposal



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School Choice Proposal  
Website



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Online Survey & Community  
Feedback Form



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Virtual and In-Person  
Informational Sessions



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Board Community Forum

# *Improved Sense of Belonging Leads to Positive Student Outcomes*

## The time is NOW!

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To reach our future state, we are committed to:

- Increasing choice for students in the Choice Zone who previously did not have choice
- Aligning Feeder Patterns for elementary, middle, and high school students
- Implementing a comprehensive magnet strategy that aligns with MSA and provides equitable access for Black and Brown students that leads to positive student outcomes

# Questions and Feedback

