

**IDAI-R Magnet Programs**

7/24/13

GSBA Reference: IDAI Demonstration Schools

**RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) recognizes that students who demonstrate exceptional potential in a specific area may benefit from a specialized program and permits magnet programs to be developed in designated schools with Board of Education (Board) approval. The purpose of such programs will be to provide students opportunities to pursue their specialized interests, develop their talents, and extend their competencies beyond the usual scope of high school.

**RULE:**

Magnet programs should provide participating students an opportunity to experience an enriched curriculum that is consistent with the emphasis of the magnet program.

Magnet courses are approved by the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Division. The courses are designated in each magnet program's required course of study. Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses are designated by the College Board and International Baccalaureate organization as meeting the criteria necessary to be approved and offered at the local school.

**A. STUDENT ADMISSIONS**

To be enrolled in a magnet program, a student must be eligible to attend a District school. Students submit applications online during their eighth grade year in compliance with published application deadlines. Applicants are evaluated on multiple criteria which may include but is not limited to: middle school grades, teacher recommendations, standardized test scores, academic and extracurricular accomplishments, auditions (Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts), and written communication skills. Magnet programs evaluate applicants independently; admission to one program does not indicate admission to other programs. Applicants may be offered admission to multiple magnet programs; however, accepted applicants must convey intent to enroll in only one magnet program.

**B. LATE ENTRANCE ADMISSIONS:**

To qualify for late entrance admission, students must be able to meet magnet program and graduation requirements (Administrative Rule IHF - Graduation Requirements) within the remaining high school program. Please refer to Administrative Rule JJIC (Student Activities: Standards for Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities) for GHSA eligibility implications.

Four categories of qualified students may be admitted to magnet programs after the beginning of the freshman year, as space is available:

- a. Students attending the school in which the magnet program is housed;
- b. New-to-District students;
- c. Program-to-Program Transfers:  
Before the beginning of the sophomore year, students currently enrolled in a magnet program in the District who are in good academic standing may request a transfer to another magnet program to which they were previously accepted. Transfer is subject to the discretion of the receiving school. The student and parent/guardian must first notify the current coordinator in writing of the intent to transfer to another program. If transfer is approved, the student and parent/guardian must meet with the coordinator of the new magnet program to review program requirements;
- d. Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts applicants:

Performing Arts applicants may be considered for late admissions until the fall of their senior year.

**C. CONTINUATION CRITERIA:**

The following criteria are required for continued participation in the magnet program:

1. Academic Performance: A student must maintain minimum academic performance as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract (available on the individual school websites and the District's website).
2. Behavior: A student must adhere to the policies outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract to remain in good standing.

**D. PROGRAM PROBATION:**

1. Academic Performance: A student who does not maintain minimum academic performance as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract will be placed on program probation for that subject area. A student and his or her parent/guardian will receive written notification of program probation prior to the beginning of the probation period. A student on probation will receive appropriate intervention and support from magnet program staff. The probation period ends and the student returns to good standing upon the successful completion of the subsequent magnet-related, AP, or IB course. If the student on probation does not maintain minimum academic performance as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract, he or she may be dismissed from the program.
2. Behavior: A student who violates the Magnet Program Contract will be placed on probation. A student and his or her parent/guardian will receive written notification of program probation immediately following the violation(s). If the student receives no additional violations during the current or subsequent semester, the probation period ends and the student returns to good standing. If the student commits another violation the Magnet Program Contract before the end of the subsequent semester, he or she may be dismissed from the program.

**E. DISMISSAL/WITHDRAWAL:**

Parents of students dismissed from the program will be notified in writing by the magnet coordinator at the end of the semester for which the student was on probation. For students who voluntarily withdraw, parents are required to submit written notification to the magnet coordinator.

1. Immediate Program Dismissal may result if a student:
  - a. Fails to meet minimum academic performance for any magnet related, AP, IB or performing arts major (Center for Excellence in the Performing Arts only) course as outlined in the individual Magnet Program Contract;
  - b. Is retained in his or her grade level for the subsequent school year (IHE-R: Promotion and Retention); or
  - c. Receives a suspension that is in violation of the Magnet Program Contract.
2. During the first three years of participation in the magnet program, students who discontinue the magnet program must return to their zoned high school according to the following timeline:
  - a. If the magnet program and the student's home school are on the same schedule type (block, traditional, alternating block, etc.), then the student must return to their home school at the conclusion of the current semester;
  - b. If the magnet program and the student's home school are on different schedule types, then the student must return to their home school at the conclusion of the school year.
3. Students from outside the magnet school's attendance zone who are dismissed from the program within the first three years of participation are expected to return to their districted high school at the end of that academic year and will be subject to normal Georgia High School Association (GHSA) transfer rules regarding eligibility in extracurricular activities.

**F. DISMISSAL APPEAL PROCESS:**

Students who are dismissed from the program may appeal their dismissal to a review panel composed of an Area Assistant Superintendent other than the one representing the magnet school or student's zoned high school, a District Curriculum Director, and the Superintendent

or designee. The student initiates the appeal process by submitting a written request for reconsideration with all materials supporting the request, a return address, and a daytime telephone number to:

Advanced Learning Programs Department  
Cobb County School District  
P. O. Box 1088  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-1088

Notification of a final decision will be sent from the review panel.

Adopted: 9/25/03

Revised: 5/12/04

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 4/15/09; 4/14/10

Revised and re-coded: 9/27/12 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule IHBHB)

Revised: 7/24/13