

<b>FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Reg. No. 400-88</b>
<b>Subject: ELEMENTARY MAGNET PROGRAM</b>	<b>Date of Issue: 1/2/08</b>
<b>Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent</b>	<b>Amended: 5/19/08</b>

I. Policy

II. Procedures

A. Overview

The Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) Elementary Magnet program offers a comprehensive education serving the unique needs and varied learning styles of academically gifted students in grades 1-5. The program provides academic rigor and challenge to students who meet the selection criteria and who demonstrate high academic performance in all subject areas. The program extends and enriches FCPS Essential Curriculum through depth and complexity of topics, the integration of several disciplines, and a variety of learning activities, including research and independent projects. The pace of instruction is accelerated to better meet the needs of the learner.

Students seeking placement in the Elementary Magnet Program are screened on a countywide basis. Any student offered a placement in the program is assigned to a magnet site based on his/her residence. Magnet sites are currently housed within New Market, North Frederick, and Urbana Elementary Schools.

B. Program Outcomes

The Elementary Magnet Program affords students opportunities to:

- Think critically, logically, and creatively
- Develop understandings of concepts and essential principles of content
- Learn and apply the skills and processes of advanced research, experimentation, problem-solving, and decision-making skills
- Enhance skills of working independently and collaboratively
- Advance individual commitment to long-term tasks and projects
- Manage time effectively
- Communicate effectively through written, oral, visual and performance products
- Self-evaluate performance
- Value learning based on high performance standards
- Respect diversity in people, opinions, interests, and learning styles

C. Nominations

1. Teachers and administrators of the current school may nominate students for the magnet program. Parents/guardians also may nominate their child. It is recommended that parents consult with the child's current teachers and principal to help gauge the appropriateness of the magnet program for their child. Parents of students who are home schooled or enrolled in private schools should contact the Office of Gifted and Talented Education for nomination procedures.

2. Nomination packets are available in public and non-public schools in Frederick County, from the Office of Gifted and Talented Education, or on-line at <http://fcps.schoolwires.com/gnt> in early to mid-February.
3. The deadline for nomination forms to be submitted for students who are current residents of Frederick County is early to mid-March. The exact deadline is provided on the nomination form.
4. The Nominations Review Committee is comprised of the elementary curriculum specialist for language arts, the elementary curriculum specialist for math, the coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programs, and the Gifted and Talented teacher specialist.

#### D. Criteria for Selection

Any student nominated for placement in the magnet program must exhibit all of the following characteristics:

1. Current successful performance in both reading and mathematics at one (1) or more years above current enrolled grade level.
2. Strong ratings on teacher checklists of learner behaviors, mathematics performance, and language arts achievement.
3. Strong ratings on parent checklists of student learning behaviors.
4. Superior scores in both reading comprehension and mathematics on a nationally normed achievement test as designated by the Office of Gifted and Talented Education.

#### E. Students New to Frederick County

Students moving to Frederick County during the school year may be screened for the Elementary Magnet Program only if, after 3-6 weeks of instruction, the principal makes a request to the coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programs indicating that the student's needs are not able to be met in the home school. The deadline for principals to make this request is December 15.

Parents of students preparing to move to Frederick County prior to the beginning of a new school year may do the following from mid-February up until July 15: 1) submit the magnet nomination form, 2) submit the parent rating form, and 3) request the previous year's teacher to submit the FCPS teacher checklists. However, administration of the designated achievement test will not occur until the child has enrolled in FCPS or can show proof of residence in Frederick County. The deadline for the designated achievement test to be administered to students new to Frederick County is July 31.

Nomination forms will not be processed for a student seeking placement in a magnet classroom that already has reached maximum enrollment capacity.

F. Appeal Process

If a student is not selected for the magnet program, a parent may submit a written appeal of the decision within ten (10) business days from the date on the notification letter to the coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programs. (See attached Exhibit – Elementary Magnet Appeal Form.) The appeal process includes further review of information about the student and contact with appropriate staff members to determine if any additional assessment is needed. If the parent is not satisfied with the appeal decision, he/she may appeal to the supervisor for the Gifted and Talented program. The next level of appeal, if needed, is to the associate superintendent for Elementary Education who serves as the superintendent's designee.

Approved:

*original signed by*

---

Linda D. Burgee  
Superintendent

**Frederick County Public Schools**

***Elementary Magnet Appeal Form***

An appellant may use this form to provide a factual and legal basis for their appeal of the decision denying their child enrollment in the Elementary Magnet Program.

*NOTE: If the remedy being sought is to change the existing criteria in the regulation, the avenue of appeal is through submittal of comments directly to the superintendent seeking consideration of a change in the current superintendent's regulation.*

1. Student's name, grade, and school:

---

---

---

2. Appellant's name, address, and daytime telephone number (to be provided for each appellant):

---

---

---

3. The date of the letter stating the Nominations Review Committee's decision:

---

4. Provide a concise statement of the issues and specific areas you are disagreeing with regarding the decision and state why you believe the decision was arbitrary or illegal.

---

---

---

---

5. State all laws, policies, regulations, etc. which you believe have been violated in this case and how:

---

---

---

---

6. Identify and attach all documents that support your appeal.

---

---

---

---

7. State the relief or remedy you are seeking.

---

---

---

---

---

Appellant Signature

---

Date