

Magnet Taskforce Update & Montessori Enrollment Change



Education Committee Meeting
October 2016



Pittsburgh
Public Schools

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An internal Magnet taskforce was initiated to review the current state of the District's magnet schools/programs. This included a review of historical information including magnet enrollment data, existing policies and procedures, costs, offerings and pathways.

Overarching Goal: Assure that the PreK-12 options afforded to our students are equitable, coherent, and high quality.

March - December 2015:

- Taskforce launched with technical assistance from consultant Jan Ripper.
- Inconsistencies regarding Montessori P3-4-5 program enrollment were surfaced; options were explored to unify the program within our Early Childhood program.
- Minor updates to Administrative Regulation of the Magnet Policy surfaced.
- Bi-monthly meetings with Magnet principals re-instituted.
- Initial report/recommendations shared with Cabinet; Timeline for taskforce and its recommendations are extended.

January, 2016: State of Magnets Overview Presentation at Board Education Committee.

Timeline of Activities (cont.)

March, 2016: Administrative Regulations (AR) “clean-up” revisions shared at Policy Committee/ Workshop of the Board.

April - December 2016:

- Internal working group re-constituted.
- Additional internal and external benchmarking conducted including a literature review.
- New online Magnet registration/ enrollment system (SRC) is launched.
- Magnet Schools of America secured for technical assistance.

Current Recommendation & Next Steps

1. In January 2017, we will present comprehensive preliminary recommendations regarding Magnets with final recommendations in June 2017.
2. Today, we are sharing a new change to our Montessori P3 & P4 enrollment process to align all PreK offerings as a part of the District's Early Childhood (EC) program:

Integrate Montessori PreK (P3 and P4) lottery and enrollment under the Early Childhood Program.

Why the Change?

1. To avoid confusion for current and prospective PPS families: All applications for children three and four years old will be accepted during the EC lottery window. *Applications accepted from Feb. 1-March 31. Lottery runs on April 17. Parents are notified by May 5, 2017.*
2. To follow the Board policy from May 2012, whereas all PreK children whose family income exceeds 300% of the Federal Poverty Level will pay tuition, Montessori P3 and P4 will also pay tuition.

Federal Poverty Level (FPL) chart

Household Size	300% of the FPL
1	\$35,310
2	\$47,790
3	\$60,270
4	\$71,850
5	\$85,230
6	\$97,710
7	\$110,190
8	\$122,670

What Will This Mean?

- Phase-In Period: Those who are currently enrolled and those siblings that are applying for the 2017-18 school year will be exempt from being charged tuition for the 17-18 school year only.
- All enrolled students through this new process would receive continuation in the program through kindergarten.
- The program model and design will remain unchanged.