



A Summary of Member Benefits and Services



About MSA



Founded in 1986, MSA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education association representing more than 4,300 magnet schools and their 3.5 million students. MSA works to advance its mission of *"providing vision, leadership and support for innovative programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, access, and excellence for all students."* Our work each day is focused on ensuring that our members have the support they need to advance the mission of these critically important schools.



Ramin Taheri

CEO



Ramin Taheri joined MSA as CEO in 2023. Throughout his career, Ramin has worked closely on policies that touch on the values and priorities that make up MSA's core mission. Prior to his current role, he was chief of staff for the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, where he coordinated activities related to media and communications, congressional affairs, strategic policy development, and organizational management for one of the largest civil rights offices in the federal government. His experience covers a range of complex legal, policy, and regulatory issues in education and civil rights with an emphasis on school diversity, integration, equity, and access.

Ashley Rubenstein

Director of Membership Initiatives



Ashley Rubenstein joined Magnet Schools of America in 2016 and currently serves as the Director of Membership Initiatives. She manages MSA's Certification and Awards programs and leads MSA's membership growth and engagement efforts. She provides MSA membership with optimal customer service and technical assistance and is constantly striving to effectively build relationships and engage with members and potential members, including school-based staff, district-level leaders, and other senior leaders.





Board of Directors



Your membership dues make possible MSA's work to advocate for and promote magnet schools and provide opportunities for our members to learn, network, and share best practices, including:

- Events and Networking
- Publications
- Policy and Advocacy
- Awards and Recognition
- Professional Learning
- Certification



Member Benefits



MSA events are unique opportunities for our members to come together. Our annual conference is a special, one-of-a-kind gathering. Last April, MSA brought together more than 1,700 magnet-school educators, leaders, district administrators, researchers, and advocates to network, share best practices, and have fun!



Events and Networking

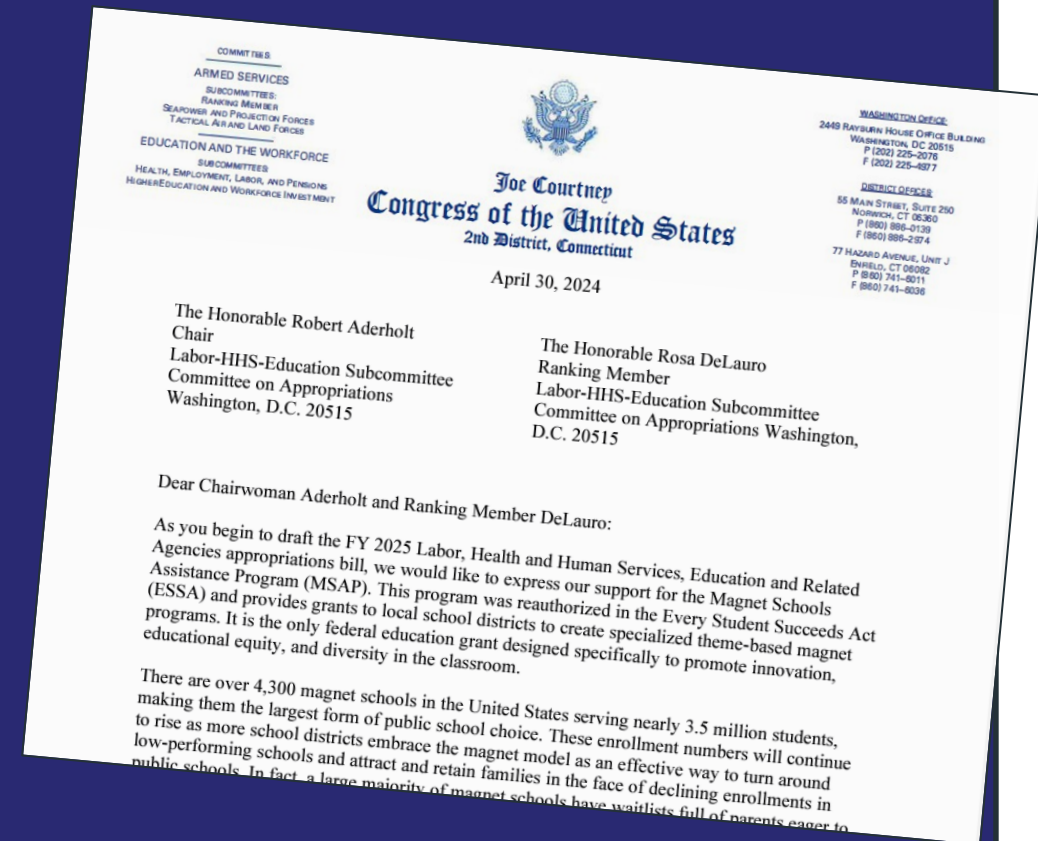


Publications

MSA provides a weekly e-newsletter, the Magnet Minute, informing members of important updates about events, policy developments, and all things magnet. Our digital magazine, *Distinct by Design*, includes expert opinion on issues important to magnet schools and content that features magnet students, teachers, school leaders, and administrators.



MSA fights each day for increased support – financial and otherwise – for America’s magnet schools. This past year we had the most signatories ever on our House appropriations letter, which enjoyed bipartisan support.



Policy and Advocacy



Schools Students Want. Schools Students Need. | @magnetschlsMSA



MSA provides our schools, educators, and leaders opportunities to receive the recognition they deserve for their remarkable accomplishments. This year we received more applications than ever for our national merit-awards program. We also presented awards to teachers and principals of the year and launched Magnet Mania, a new superintendent of the year that drew record engagement and brought well-deserved attention to magnet schools across the country.

Awards and Recognition





Innovation and preparation are as important to our schools, teachers, and administrators as they are to our children. MSA founded The National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL) as the technical assistance arm whose mission is to provide professional expertise to MSA member districts and their schools.

Professional Learning





Certification



MSA's Standards of Excellence Certification Program continues to grow its network and ensure that the five pillars are consistent, essential elements and characteristics of high-quality magnet programs. This year, as leading examples of magnet school excellence, 284 schools nationwide have earned magnet certification, with 128 of these achieving the prestigious status of demonstration certified magnet schools. These remarkable institutions offer exceptional learning opportunities for their students and exemplify the very best of what magnet schools can be.





Membership rates for July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

- **DeKalb County Schools has a district student enrollment of over 91,000 students**
- District membership is based on district student enrollment
- **Category I: 1 – 19,999** Total student enrollment in district – \$2,300
- **Category II: 20,000 – 49,999** Total student enrollment in district – \$4,600
- **Category III: 50,000 – 99,999** Total student enrollment in district - \$5,500
- **Category IV: 100,000 – 199,999** Total student enrollment in district – \$6,400
- **Category V: 200,000 – 299,999** Total student enrollment in district – \$7,300
- **Category VI: 300,000 – 399,999** Total student enrollment in district – \$8,200
- **Category VII: 400,000+** Total student enrollment in district – \$9,100



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