

<b>FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	<b>Reg. No. 400-88</b>
<b>Subject: ELEMENTARY MAGNET PROGRAM</b>	<b>Issued: 1/2/08</b>
<b>Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent</b>	<b>Amended: 12/9/13</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 3-5. 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. Additional information about specific programs and locations can be found on the FCPS Web site at: [www.fcps.org/advacademics](http://www.fcps.org/advacademics)

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 Elementary 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 Elementary Magnet Program for their child.

Parents of students who are home schooled or enrolled in private schools should contact the Office of Advanced Academics for nomination procedures.

2. Nomination packets are available in public and non-public schools in Frederick County, from the Office of Advanced Academics or online at [www.fcps.org/advacademics](http://www.fcps.org/advacademics) in early to mid-February.
3. The deadline for receipt of nomination forms for students who are current Frederick County residents is early to mid-March. The exact deadline is provided on the nomination form.
4. Completed nomination packets are considered by the Nominations Review Committee, comprised of the elementary curriculum specialist for language arts, the elementary curriculum specialist for math, the supervisor of Advanced Academics, the supervisor of Accelerating Achievement & Equity and the Advanced Academics teacher specialist.
5. The Nominations Review Committee examines data collected during the nominations process and, in light of the program criteria, selects students to be offered placement in the Elementary Magnet Program.
6. Notification letters are mailed by May 15 to the parents/guardians of nominated students.

D. Students New to Frederick County

1. 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 supervisor of Advanced Academics 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.
2. Parents of students preparing to move to Frederick County prior to the beginning of a new school year must do the following from mid-February up until July 15:
  - a. Submit the magnet nomination form;
  - b. Submit the parent rating form; and
  - c. Request the previous year's teacher to submit the FCPS teacher checklists. However, administration of the selected test will not occur until the child has enrolled in FCPS or can show proof of residence in Frederick County. The deadline for the 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 enrollment capacity.

E. Criteria for Selection

Any student nominated for placement in the Elementary Magnet Program must exhibit all of the following characteristics:

1. Current successful performance in both reading and mathematics at 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 test as selected by the Office of Advanced Academics.

F. Appeal Process

1. Decisions of the Nominations Review Committee can be appealed by the parent/guardian of the nominated student.
2. Questions or concerns about the Nomination Review Committee's decision should initially be directed to the supervisor of Advanced Academics.
3. Should questions or concerns not be resolved, the parent/guardian may submit a written appeal to the supervisor of Advanced Academics of the decision within 10 business days from the date on the notification letter. The appeal should detail reasons the parent disagrees with the decision and provide any additional documentation. (See attached Exhibit – Elementary Magnet Appeal Form.)
4. Written appeal forms are reviewed by the Magnet Appeal Committee comprised of the executive director of Accelerating Achievement & Equity, the supervisor of Advanced Academics, and an elementary magnet principal from a school other than the student's home school. The committee gathers and reviews additional information, as necessary, and issues a decision.
5. Letters notifying parents/guardians of the Magnet Appeal Committee's decision are mailed by June 15.
6. The next level of appeal, if needed, is to the Superintendent's designee.

Approved:

*Original signed by*

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Theresa R. Alban  
Superintendent

EXHIBIT

**Frederick County Public Schools**  
***Elementary Magnet Appeal Form***

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

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

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

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4. Please provide a concise statement of the reasons(s) you are appealing the Magnet Selection Committee's decision.

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

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Parent/Guardian Signature

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Date