



HISD

Magnet School Program Recommendations

February 24, 2011
Board of Education Workshop



HISD

Agenda

- District Guiding Principles
- Magnet Program
 - Current State
 - Community Feedback
 - Recommendations and Rationale
- Discussion
- Next Steps



HISD

Guiding Principles

- **Declaration of Beliefs and Visions**
 - HISD's greatest strength is its human capital
 - Schools must be empowered
 - School choice must remain an integral part of the HISD system
 - Meaningful engagement
- **Strategic Direction as the transformation framework**
 - Provide equity in access to high-quality, educational programs
 - Rigorous instructional standards
- **District commitments**
 - Parent choice
 - Magnet programs
 - Vanguard programs
 - Transportation



HISD

Background

- Outreach
 - Community, district, and committee meetings
- Feedback
 - Comment and mail in cards; online and paper surveys; school feedback forms and e-mails
- Research
 - Third-party reports, best practices, and peer research
- Data Analysis
 - Student and school achievement; budget and expenditures; admission and selection criteria



HISD

Student Application, Selection and Admission Process

Current state:

- 39 different, school-specific selection checklists
- 29 require additional testing/auditions
- 13 without specified criteria
- Principal Agreement transfers -12 to 507
- Limited ability to track data
- Students are accepted into several programs
- Inconsistent student enrollment goals

What we heard:

- A selection criteria standard is needed
- Maintain school-based selection
- Centralized system limits choice
- Lack of trust
- Transparent centralized system with oversight
- Concern about manipulation
- Centralized system for transparency, equity, and access



Student Application, Selection and Admission Process

Recommendations:

Establish consistent process:

- Utilize a standard application
- Establish selection criteria by theme
- Create neighborhood and sibling policy
- Create centralized selection system with oversight
- Set priority for magnet transfers *

Establish enrollment goals:

- Elementary - 20% non-zone of total enrollment
- Secondary - 100 non-zone students per grade level
- Dedicated Magnets - enrollment of at least 80% of the total building capacity
- Alternate goals for programs that are small by design

Rationale:

- Maintain school choice
- Provide equity in access
- Monitor and report applications, acceptance and waitlist data
- Create transparent application and acceptance processes
- Offer portfolio of schools
- Provide specialized instruction
- Ensure parents can identify schools that best meet their children's unique interests and needs

* Added during Board Workshop presentation.



Magnet Funding

Current state:

- Per pupil expenditures range between \$4,157 MS vs. \$17 ES
- Unique PUAs range from \$2,564,994 to \$356,430
- A technology theme at HS ranges from \$211,139 to \$52,720
- An ES with 849 students receives \$15,000 while another with 235 students receives \$278,930

What we heard:

- Equalize the funding
- Develop a transparent system of funding
- Leave funding as is



Magnet Funding

Recommendations:

- By program design
 - Schoolwide Program – SWP
 - School Within A School- SWAS
 - Dedicated (no zone)
- By theme
 - IB, STEM, Montessori, etc.
- By level
 - Elementary, K-8, Middle, 6-12 and High
- Per pupil allocation (PUA)
 - By theme and level
- Capital outlay funding
 - Rotating cycle

Rationale:

- Adequate and equitable allocation of resources
- Transparent funding formulas
- Unique funding for unique programs
- Money follows the child



Measures of Success and Accountability

Current state:

- Limited standards of accountability for students or school academic performance
 - 4 schools* rated as Unacceptable (TEA accountability rating)
 - 18 schools with fewer than 50 students from outside the attendance zone.
 - 79 schools with <15% non-zoned enrollment

What we heard:

- Create standards for all Magnet programs
- Measure success by student performance and school TEA academic rating
- Set specific thematic outcomes
- Allow schools to set their own standards
- Ensure rigorous standards (commended, career readiness indicators)

* Added during Board Workshop presentation.



Measures of Success and Accountability

Recommendations:

- Enrollment goals
- Academic, achievement and attendance goals
- Partnerships related to the theme
- Retention of students in program
- School outcomes by theme (performances, certifications, licenses, etc.)
- Theme is evident and relevant
- Annual Peer Review
- Comprehensive evaluation every 3 years

Rationale:

- Schools and program accountability
- Expectations are clear and rigorous
- Elimination of achievement gap
- Track and monitor school performance
- Leadership accountability



HISD

Next Steps

- Communicate recommendations
- Review feedback
- Prepare transition plan
 - Phase In
 - Phase Out
- Develop Policy and Regulation
- Create implementation timeline
- Prepare final recommendations for March 10 Board Meeting