

I. PURPOSE

The Northwest Suburban Integration School District #6078 (NWSISD) has established magnet schools to further the purpose of a racially integrated metropolitan area, to equal educational opportunities for all children, and to the enhancement of educational opportunities through inter-district educational options in integrated settings. All students residing within the member districts are eligible to attend a NWSISD magnet school. If the magnet school is not their neighborhood school, then they must apply through the NWSISD application process.

II. Magnet School Lottery

NWSISD will conduct a lottery if the number of applicants exceeds the number of available seats, as described in procedures.

I. LOTTERY PRIORITIES

A. Sibling Priority

First priority will be given to the applications of siblings of students who are currently attending and will continue to attend the same magnet school, and who have submitted an application during the priority application period. Applications receiving the sibling preference will be sorted within this priority through a random selection process.

B. Magnet Strand Priority

Second priority will be given to the applications of students who have completed the course of study in one of the member district's magnet programs and wish to attend a similarly themed magnet program at the next school level. For example, a student at an arts elementary magnet wishing to attend an arts middle school magnet will be given this priority. Applications receiving this priority will be sorted within this priority through a random selection process.

C. Geographic Priority

(1) Third priority at each magnet school or school containing a magnet school program, priority will be given to the applications of students residing in specific geographical areas. Geographic areas will be determined as necessary to strive for more racially balanced schools. Applications receiving this priority will be sorted within this priority through a random selection process.

(2) Neighborhood and community demographics will be taken into consideration when dividing the member districts as a whole into geographic areas for lottery priority placement.

II. SECOND CHOICE PROCEDURE

A. If a student does not get into their first choice magnet school, and they have indicated a second choice on their application, their second choice magnet school may be assigned.

B. When a student who indicated interest in more than one magnet school is assigned to a magnet school, their application will not be considered for placement in the other school. Therefore, assigned students cannot be placed on a wait list for another school.

C. Following the final lottery, if a student has not been assigned to either a first or second choice school, they will be placed on the wait list for the first choice school.

III. NOTIFICATION OF ASSIGNMENT TO SCHOOLS AND MEMBER DISTRICTS

Schools will be notified that assigned students can be viewed in the online magnet portal prior to parent notification. Schools are encouraged to review lists to ensure sibling enrollment and identify any potential students who should be enrolled through natural attendance boundaries. Schools should notify NWSISD upon review of assigned students by specific dates so notification letters can be mailed to parents.

IV. NOTIFICATION OF OFFERS TO PARENTS AND RESPONSE

At a date to be determined, an assignment letter shall be sent notifying parent (or guardians) of each magnet school seat offered as a result of the lottery. The assignment letter assumes that the student is accepting placement into the magnet school program, pending district rules, and will enroll in the school by the date indicated on the assignment letter. If the student is accepting placement, they do not need to contact the NWSISD magnet office.

Students accepting placement in the magnet school program are expected to remain in the program for at least one school year and are encouraged to remain in the program for the remainder of their elementary and/or secondary school years.

V. CONFIRMATION OF ACCEPTED PLACEMENTS

Following the deadline date for registering at the school indicated on the parent notification letter, a school designee should mark any student who has not accepted their assignment by registering at the school as a “decline” in the online magnet portal.

VI. SUBSEQUENT INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS

After the final lottery, seats may become available at the various magnet schools, through parents’ declining of offers, families moving, etc. These vacancies will be filled by random selection from the waiting pool list, using the same lottery procedures as listed above.

Following the closing of the final application period, each school will receive a randomized wait list of students who have applied to their school. School designees shall assign students off the wait list.

During the summer, once students from the wait list have been enrolled, or during the school year, if seats become available the school may enroll new students who reside in the member districts. Schools should enter the students through the online portal. Students assigned directly by the school have the same benefits as those who were assigned through the lottery process.

References: *Parents Involved in Community Schools v. Seattle School District No. 1*, 127 S. Ct. 2738 (U.S. 2007)
Hart V. Community School Board of Brooklyn, New York Sch. Dist. #21, 536 F. Supp. 274, 283 (E.D. N.Y. '08)
Minnesota Rule 3535.0110

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