

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Related Entries: Policy 615

Responsible Office: ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES

MAGNET, SIGNATURE, AND CONSORTIA PROGRAMS

A. PURPOSE

To establish a policy governing magnet, signature, and consortia programs in Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

B. ISSUE

Magnet, consortia, and signature programs promote educational excellence and offer students distinct educational choices.

C. DEFINITIONS

1. *Magnet Program* means a program with a specialized curriculum or one with an emphasis on instruction that is different from that generally offered in other schools throughout a designated geographic area, drawing students in accordance with established criteria and admission process that may, or may not, comprise a school's entire curriculum offering.
2. *Signature Program* means a program theme specific to a school. Signature programs are available only to students enrolled at that school, which may or may not comprise a school's entire curriculum offering. If the signature program is not school wide, acceptance into the program may be by established criteria and admission process.
3. Consortia means a group of magnet programs serving schools within a contiguous geographic area that provide students the opportunity to attend a magnet program in the designated school consortium.

D. POSITION

1. The Board of Education of Anne Arundel County believes that magnet, consortia, and signature programs are programs of choice within and among schools that provide opportunities for students to enhance their educational success through challenging courses addressing the academic needs and interests of students. The Board of Education and Superintendent of Schools will make every effort to provide a system wide balance of magnet, signature, and consortia programs, linked to potential community and business partnerships, to meet the educational and career interests of students attending Anne Arundel County Public Schools. New magnet signature, and consortia programs will be determined within the context of available resources.
2. Transportation service will be authorized across established attendance areas for students attending a magnet program. Parents/Guardians must provide transportation to consolidated bus stops.
3. Transfers will not be approved to attend a signature program outside of one's attendance zone.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The Superintendent is authorized to develop regulations to implement this policy.

Policy History: Adopted 4/4/2007.

Note previous policy history: None.