

Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)-Executive Committee

Presented by: CAC Secondary Magnet Study Sub Committee, 2019-2020 Academic Year

Sub Committee Members: Turmel Kindred (Chair), Michael Maresca, Amy Baker, Donna Day, Susan Franklin, Vanessa Rivera, Jenn Lombardi

Overview: The purpose of the Secondary Magnet Subcommittee is to address the equity, fairness, selection criteria, procedures and the possibility for expansion for AACPS magnet programs. These programs are educational programs with a specialized course of study or an emphasis on instruction that is different from the traditional curriculum offered. These programs are International Baccalaureate (IB), Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Performing and Visual Arts (PVA). These programs are in great demand but seats across the county are few. There are inconsistencies between enrolling in the respective programs in middle school and not being selected or allowed to continue in that program at the high school level. There is also an inquiry into how the selection process is done. Is it inclusive of our diverse AACPS demographic, are we being fair across social economic lines?

Our report will ask at a minimum the following questions:

1. Is there a possibility for expansion of the programs to other schools or more slots?
2. Possibility of setting aside a % of slots for special requests?
3. How does AACPS magnet program differ from other school counties in the country?
4. Is there tracking of the student's success upon leaving the programs after graduation?
5. How are they ensuring equality and diversity among acceptance into the programs?
6. How is the lottery process completed and what are its determining factors in selection?

Research completed/Feb 2020-present

· Documents reviewed before and during our subcommittee meeting: AACPS Magnet Information Home Page: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/1104> Magnet Lottery Information: <https://www.aacps.org/Page/1859>

Videos: STEM - <https://youtu.be/sTvUEByCKmQ> IB - https://youtu.be/o4LeW4E__kU PVA - <https://youtu.be/pgTDUIAhKcl> Mary & Kevin - <https://youtu.be/8-u7kgQ2Aso?list=TLPQMDUwMjJwMjDIWxzge3FdEw>

- Turmel Kindred was chosen as the team captain.
- The committee determined the Goal to be examining the possibility of expanding programs which will have more interest. Also discussed was parent education/reviewing options.
- The next steps were determined. Increase understanding of the lottery process. Examine how we ensure diversity and equity in the programs. Look outside AACPS to determine if there could be another option for the lottery. Examine the data for the prior years.

The group was able to question and review the magnet program parameters with Dr. Joe Wiczorek Teacher Specialist and Dr. Kevin Hamlin Director, Advanced Studies and Programs. Dr. Joe and Mr. Hamlin did a comprehensive briefing detailing the process and procedures of the lottery system for AACPS magnet programs. The briefing started with an explanation of the respective programs available (IB, STEM, VA, etc). The benefits and explanation of these programs were followed by some of the nuances of the programs itself. The demographics suggest it has equal representation in regards to race and nationality in the magnet programs across the county. There are no students ranked over another, if

a child meets the minimum requirements to apply for the program he/she has an equal chance to be selected for their program of choice. The biggest complaint reported to the administrators besides not enough opportunities of these programs is the transportation to the schools. There are unforeseen vacancies in the program numbers as it relates to military kids accepting a slot and having to leave due to military families moving.

Additionally, team members selected other school systems magnet programs to review, and compare. Other school systems magnet programs reviewed are below:

Virginia Beach Public School

Baltimore County Public School

Montgomery County Public School

Prince George County Public School

Resources

AACPS Magnet Information Home Page

<https://www.aacps.org/Page/1104>

Magnet Lottery Information

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