



# *Los Angeles Unified School District*

## OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

EDUCATION LEGAL SERVICES

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September 28, 2011

Frederick J. Weintraub, Independent Monitor

Office of the Independent Monitor

333 South Beaudry Avenue, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor

Los Angeles, California 90017

Re: District's Response to OIM Study of Magnet Schools' Compliance with the Modified Consent Decree and the Los Angeles Unified School District's Special Education Policies and Procedures

Dear Mr. Weintraub:

The District's response to the OIM Study of Magnet Schools as discussed during previous MCD Meetings of the Parties is addressed in the following three categories: Recruitment, Enrollment and Retention.

### **1. Recruitment**

- The District has reviewed and is revising the Choices Program brochure and application to ensure that its contents are in compliance with federal and state special education laws.
- The District will include specific information in its LRE brochure, as well as on the Division of Special Education and Office of Student Integration websites that Magnet Schools/Programs are an enrollment option for all students, including students with disabilities.
- The Division of Special Education has added a module to its topics of training for parents of students with disabilities to address special education in the era of Public School Choice.
- The Office of Student Integration, Division of Special Education and Office of the General Counsel have reviewed and are revising District policies and procedures related to Magnet Schools/Programs to ensure compliance with federal and state special education laws.

### **2. Enrollment**

- The District's application process for enrollment in Magnet Schools/Programs will be administered on-line beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. In

addition, hard copy Choices Program brochures and applications will be available at school sites and local public libraries for parents/guardians who may not have access to a computer and/or the internet. Hard copy applications will still be accepted on or before the application deadline in the District's Office of Student Integration.

- The formerly known "No Match List" process has been discontinued. The Office of Student Integration and Division of Special Education have abolished this practice. Students with disabilities are accepted into Magnet programs based upon identical criteria as their nondisabled peers.
- The Magnet Program process letters have been revised to eliminate the "No Match" and "Provisional Acceptance" letters. The accompanying lists are no longer established as all students who gain an acceptance to a Magnet School Program through the District's process receive generic acceptance/information letters notifying parents of their student's acceptance.
- The Magnet Program Resource Handbook has been reviewed and is being revised to ensure compliance with State and Federal special education laws.
- Students with disabilities that are reachable on the 2011-2012 Magnet School "Wait List" have been offered available placements in Magnet Schools/Programs.
- The Magnet Program process now includes the Division of Special Education conducting a review of individual student's IEPs following Parent notification of acceptance at the identified Magnet School/Program to ensure appropriate services are in place for the beginning of the applicable school year.
- The District modified its enrollment form as part of its response to the Charter School Study to add a field which captures whether a parent has attempted to enroll in a different school (i.e., charter or magnet) prior to enrolling in a District-operated school and the outcome of that attempt. This modification allows the District to capture data related to the enrollment patterns of students with disabilities in public schools of choice.

### **3. Retention**

- Upon initial enrollment in Magnet Schools/Programs, IEP team meetings are convened within 30 days of student's enrollment to discuss and address placement and services in the Magnet School/Program.
- The Division of Special Education is working in collaboration with the Office of Student Integration to ensure that appropriate special education resources are aligned to individual student needs at Magnet Schools/Programs where students are enrolled.
- The Division of Special Education will offer professional development opportunities to Magnet School/Program administrators and teachers to support the needs of students with disabilities, including the IEP process.
- The Division of Special Education will work collaboratively with the Office of Student Integration to address the retention of students with disabilities in Magnet

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Schools/Programs and review Magnet School/Program offerings of appropriate programming for students with disabilities.

The District will provide you with copies of the revised documents referenced above on or before October 5, 2011. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above-referenced action items.

Sincerely,



D. Deneen Evans Cox

Assistant General Counsel

c: Sharyn Howell (via email)  
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