



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Strategic Planning Division
Policy 2019-5

TO: Interdistrict Magnet School Operators Outside the Greater Hartford Region (Non-Sheff Region)

FROM: Keith M. Norton, Chief Strategic Planning Officer *KMN*
Office of Strategic Planning

DATE: August 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Enrollment Policies for Interdistrict Magnet Schools in the Non-Sheff Region

This memorandum articulates important enrollment and grant payment policies relevant to interdistrict magnet schools outside the Greater Hartford Region (hereinafter referred to as “Non-Sheff Magnets”). We provide these policies as a reminder of Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) procedures and to ensure consistent enrollment practices among operators.

Residency and Reduced-Isolation Setting Goals¹

Generally, Non-Sheff Magnets remain eligible for an IMS operating grant if, based on the October 1 student enrollment data, they comply with *both* the below criteria.

Residency:

Per statute, a Non-Sheff Magnet **may not** enroll more than 75% of its total school enrollment from a single participating district.

Reduced-Isolation Setting:

Per statute, CSDE also considers reduced-isolation (RI) enrollment goals as set by the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) for grant eligibility. In accordance with these goals, a Non-Sheff Magnet provides a Reduced-Isolation Setting (RIS) if the percentage of RI students enrolled at the school equals at least 25% of total school enrollment.² Non-Sheff Magnets that began operations before July 1, 2005 must meet the RI enrollment goals by October 1, 2021.

The Commissioner’s standards recognize that Non-Sheff Magnets that are within 1% of the RIS goal or enroll at least 20% RI students provide a RIS, so long as the school is operating pursuant to a compliance plan approved by the Commissioner.

Generally, a Non-Sheff Magnet must maintain a total school enrollment in accordance with the Commissioner’s RIS goals to remain eligible for the operating grant. The Commissioner may award a

¹ Section 10-264l of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), as amended by Public Act 19-117, §270.

² For purposes of the Commissioner’s standard, a “reduced-isolation” student is defined as a student who self-identifies as Native American, Asian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, Other Pacific Islander, and/or White, and does not identify as Black/African American, or Hispanic. The standards, as set by the Commissioner, are subject to change by Order of the Court or stipulation of the parties.

grant to a non-compliant school an additional year or years (a) for purposes of increasing access to RI educational opportunities; and/or (b) if it is determined that special circumstances exist to continue a grant based on evidence of other indices of diversity. In such circumstances, the school must be operating pursuant to an approved compliance plan approved by the Commissioner by December 1 of the applicable school year.

Per Pupil Rates

Consistent with the above criteria, within available appropriations, the effective rates for Non-Sheff Magnets in 2019-20, are as follows:

Region	Type of Operator/ Specific IMS	Enrollment Criteria	Per Pupil Rates	
			In-District	Non-District
Non-Sheff	Host Magnet/ District Operated	No more than 75% enrollment from a single participating school district; at least 25% RI enrollment	\$3,060	\$7,227
Non-Sheff	RESC	Less than 55% enrollment from a single participating school district; at least 25% RI enrollment	\$8,058	
Non-Sheff	RESC	Enrolls at least 55% but no more than 75% students from a single participating school district; at least 25% RI enrollment	Largest Participating District (55%+ Enrollment) \$3,060	Remaining Districts \$7,227
Non-Sheff	ACES Thomas Edison Middle School (TEMS) (Operations commencing 2001-02)	Enrolls at least 55% but not more than 80% from a single participating school district; enrollment is equal to or less than the total school enrollment on record as of October 1, 2013; at least 25% RI enrollment	\$8,344	
Non-Sheff	ACES TEMS (Operations commencing 2001-02)	Enrolls at least 55% but not more than 80% from a single participating school district; enrollment is greater than the total school enrollment on record as of October 1, 2013; at least 25% RI enrollment	Largest Participating District (55%+ Enrollment) \$3,060	Remaining Districts \$7,227
Non-Sheff	Part-Time Programs	Meets other eligibility goals and enrolls students in a part-time interdistrict magnet program	65% of the applicable grant amount	

Source: Public Act 19-117, §270

Fiscal Caps

Since 2014 per statute,³ IMS operators are eligible to receive a total grant payment in an amount up to the grant the operator was eligible to receive based on the aggregate enrollment of the operator’s individual magnet schools in a prior school year. The “capped” enrollment is set by the CSDE and is subject to available appropriations. IMS operators will not receive the applicable operating grant for enrollments above such “capped” aggregate enrollments without prior authorization from the CSDE.

³ CGS §10-264I, as amended by Public Act 19-117, §270

Financial Reduction or Financial Penalty

Failure to comply with any of the above criteria may result in a reduction of the grant or financial penalty based on CSDE's review of October 1 enrollment data. Prior to applying any financial reduction or penalty, CSDE expects the Non-Sheff Magnet operator to monitor enrollments to attempt to reconcile noncompliance. CSDE will notify operators of discrepancies it becomes aware of through its own concurrent monitoring of enrollment data. Any statutorily required reduction is applied to the final annual operating grant payment.

Residency:

If a Non-Sheff Magnet does not meet the 75% residency requirement, the Commissioner shall not award the grant, up to the amount of the applicable interdistrict magnet operating grant.

Reduced-Isolation Setting:

If a Non-Sheff Magnet does not meet the RIS goals for two or more consecutive years⁴, the Commissioner may impose a financial penalty on the operator, up to the amount of the applicable interdistrict magnet operating grant, or take any other measure, in consultation with such operator, as may be appropriate to assist the operator in complying with the RIS goals.

Operator Actions

Non-Sheff Magnet operators must implement and include the contents of this policy in school and/or district documents and publications (e.g., operations plans, enrollment policies, and public resources/communications).

CSDE Contact

Please contact the Office of Strategic Planning at SDE.StrategicPlanning@ct.gov or [860-713-6465](tel:860-713-6465) with any questions.

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⁴ CGS §10-264l, as amended by Public Act 19-117, §270