



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships  
Policy 2020-2

**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 and Partnerships

**DATE:** August 31, 2020

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

This memorandum articulates important updated 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. These updated policies reflect adjustments to accommodate enrollment shifts resulting from public reaction to the pandemic.

#### Dual Enrollment

Non-Sheff Magnets may not dually enroll students in school choice programs unless specifically approved by CSDE. Non-Sheff Magnets will not receive the applicable operating and/or enrollment grants for such students through the entire term of the students’ enrollment in such school.

[View the full Single School Enrollment Standard policy. CLICK HERE](#)

[View the full Dual Enrollment policy. CLICK HERE](#)

#### Foreign Student Enrollment

All foreign students attending an interdistrict magnet school must be reported in the public school information system IMS operators will not receive the applicable operating and/or enrollment grants for foreign students through the entire term of the students’ enrollment in such school.

[View the full Foreign Student Enrollment policy. CLICK HERE](#)

#### **Residency and Reduced-Isolation Setting Goals<sup>1</sup>**

C.G.S. § 10-264l and the Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards (RI Standards), promulgated by the Commissioner of Education (Commissioner) pursuant to C.G.S. § 10-264r, set residency and reduced-isolation (RI) standards for Non-Sheff Magnets. The CSDE issued the Commissioner’s Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards on August 19, 2020, which are available at the following link. [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Strategic-Planning/Interdistrict\\_Magnet\\_Schools\\_Reduced-Isolation\\_Standards.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Strategic-Planning/Interdistrict_Magnet_Schools_Reduced-Isolation_Standards.pdf) Non-Sheff Magnets are expected to comply with *both* the residency and RI goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 10-264l of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) (Rev. 2019).

Residency:

Per statute and the RI Standards, Non-Sheff Magnets **may not** enroll more than 75% of its total school enrollment from a single participating district. For the 2020-21 school year, CSDE will waive fiscal penalties associated with noncompliance with the residency standard if the noncompliance is a result of enrollment fluctuations from the pandemic.

Reduced-Isolation Setting:

Per statute and the RI Standards, Non-Sheff Magnets must meet reduced-isolation enrollment goals as set by the Commissioner. 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.<sup>2</sup>

The RI Standards provide a phase-in for Non-Sheff Magnets that began operations before July 1, 2005. Any such school must meet the RI enrollment goals by October 1, 2021. In the interim, if a pre-July 1, 2005 Non-Sheff Magnet does not meet at least 20% RI enrollment, the school must be operating pursuant to a compliance plan approved by the Commissioner. The compliance plan must be designed to bring the school’s enrollment of reduced-isolation students into compliance with the 25% RIS standard by the 2021-22 school year.

Per the RI Standards, 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. The RI Standards also state that if a Non-Sheff Magnet does not meet the 25% RIS goal, there are no negative consequences for any school or school operator. However, such schools must be operating pursuant to an approved compliance plan designed to bring the school population into compliance with the RI goals and maximize (a) reduced-isolation educational opportunities; and/or (b) opportunities in settings with evidence of other indices of diversity, including but not limited to, racial, geographic, socioeconomic, percentage of special education students and English Learner students, achievement, and other factors.

**Per Pupil Rates**

Consistent with the above criteria, within available appropriations, the effective rates for Non-Sheff Magnets in 2020-21, are as follows:

Region	Type of Operator/ Specific IMS	Enrollment Criteria	Per Pupil Rates	
Non-Sheff	Host Magnet/ District Operated	No more than 75% enrollment from a single participating school district; at least 25% RI enrollment. Penalty waived for 2020-21 if noncompliance is the result of enrollment shifts due to the pandemic.	In-District \$3,060	Non-District \$7,227

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Region	Type of Operator/ Specific IMS	Enrollment Criteria	Per Pupil Rates	
Non-Sheff	RESC	Less than 55% enrollment from a single participating school district; at least 25% RI enrollment. Penalty waived for 2020-21 if noncompliance is the result of enrollment shifts due to the pandemic.	\$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. Penalty waived for 2020-21 if noncompliance is the result of enrollment shifts due to the pandemic.	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. Penalty waived for 2020-21 if noncompliance is the result of enrollment shifts due to the pandemic.	\$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. Penalty waived for 2020-21 if noncompliance is the result of enrollment shifts due to the pandemic.	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: C.G.S. §10-264I (Rev. 2019)

### Fiscal Caps

Since 2014 per statute,<sup>3</sup> Interdistrict Magnet School (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.

### Financial Reduction or Financial Penalty

Typically, failure to comply with certain criteria set forth in this memorandum might result in an impact to the operating grant based on CSDE’s review of October 1 enrollment data. However, for 2020-21, IMS operators will not receive a penalty to their grant allocation due to noncompliance with residency requirements if the noncompliance is from shifts in enrollments due to the pandemic. In addition, Non-Sheff Magnet operators will not receive a penalty to their grant allocation due to noncompliance with RIS goals.

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

Irrespective of whether CSDE will waive certain penalties this year, CSDE expects the IMS operator to monitor enrollments to attempt to reconcile non-compliance. CSDE will notify operators of discrepancies it becomes aware of through its own concurrent monitoring of enrollment data.

**Residency:**

If a Non-Sheff Magnet does not meet the 75% residency requirement, the IMS must be operating pursuant to an approved compliance plan designed to bring the school into compliance with the residency enrollment requirements in order to remain eligible for the IMS operating grant. For the 2020-21 school year, the CSDE will waive fiscal impacts from residency noncompliance if noncompliance is a result of shifts in enrollments from the pandemic. The IMS must still complete an approved compliance plan.

**Reduced-Isolation Setting:**

Per the RI Standards, Non-Sheff Magnets will not receive a penalty to their grant allocation from noncompliance with the RIS goals. Such schools must be operating pursuant to a compliance plan as indicated in this memorandum.

**Operator Actions**

Non-Sheff Magnet operators must implement and communicate the contents of this policy in school and/or district administrative documents and publications (e.g., operations plans and enrollment policies) to facilitate compliance with the enrollment policies.

**CSDE Contact**

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

KMN:rcc

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