

Relevant Interdistrict Magnet School Legislation and Policies

[C.G.S. Section 10-264l](#) and [10-264r](#) provide criteria for authorization of grants for the operation of interdistrict magnet schools and student enrollment. For informational purposes, some of the relevant provisions are set forth below.

Connecticut Interdistrict Magnet School Legislation

Interdistrict Magnet School Aggregate Payment

C.G.S. Section 10-264l(d)(1)

(d) (1) Grants made pursuant to this section, except those made pursuant to subdivision (7) of subsection (c) of this section and subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall be paid as follows: Seventy per cent not later than September first and the balance not later than May first of each fiscal year. The May first payment shall be adjusted to reflect actual interdistrict magnet school program enrollment as of the preceding October first using the data of record as of the intervening January 31st, if the actual level of enrollment is lower than the projected enrollment stated in the approved grant application. The May first payment shall be further adjusted for the difference between the total grant received by the magnet school operator in the prior fiscal year and the revised total grant amount calculated for the prior fiscal year in cases where the aggregate financial audit submitted by the interdistrict magnet school operator pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (n) of this section indicates an overpayment by the department. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the contrary, grants made pursuant to this section may be paid to each interdistrict magnet school operator as an aggregate total of the amount that the interdistrict magnet schools operated by each such operator are eligible to receive under this section. Each interdistrict magnet school operator may distribute such aggregate grant among the interdistrict magnet school programs that such operator is operating pursuant to a distribution plan approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Interdistrict Magnet School Enrollment Targets

Beginning July 1, 2021, the Legislature did not continue previous maximum limits on the operating grant based on actual enrollments in C.G.S. §10-264l. Given the change in the legislation, IMS operators may increase enrollment at their respective schools within available appropriations based on a phase-in over time as approved by the CSDE and subject to compliance with residency and diversity goals. To plan for increased financial requirements, the CSDE expects operators to provide a five-year enrollment projection per school and district that is aligned with the school's building capacity and reflects compliance with diversity and residency goals and the Comprehensive School Choice Plan (CCP) as the most recent settlement agreement in the *Sheff v. O'Neill* case. Schools and districts should use the Application for Interdistrict Magnet Funds-ED614 to share enrollment projections. Proposed enrollment expansion must reflect a phase-in approach over a minimum of three to five years to reach full building capacity as approved by the CSDE within compliance goals. Enrollment growth for FY 23 will be approved by CSDE in the ED614 Application for Interdistrict Magnet Funds by the Commissioner of Education, subject to available appropriations.

Interdistrict Magnet School Reduced Isolation and Residency Requirements

Phase IV Stipulation and Order; C.G.S. §10-264l (Rev. 2021)

Reduced Isolation Compliance Standards

[Commissioner's Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards](#)

Sheff Magnets

The Phase IV Stipulation and Order, approved by the Connecticut Superior Court on January 10, 2020, provides the Reduced Isolation goals and standards for interdistrict magnet schools in the Greater Hartford Region that assist the state in meeting its obligations pursuant to the decision in *Sheff v. O'Neill*, 238 Conn. 1 (1996), and the governing Stipulation. These same goals are included in the CCP, which was approved by the

Court on March 21, 2022. The CCP and Phase IV Stipulation explicitly acknowledge the ongoing commitment to meeting the desegregation goals from the prior stipulations and Superior Court ruling from August 7, 2017 in the *Sheff* case, but define a reduced isolation setting for purposes of compliance as a magnet school that maximizes socioeconomic diversity. A magnet school provides a reduced isolation setting if its incoming enrollment for the applicable application year does not exceed 60% enrollments from the low socioeconomic tier. By December 1 of each year, any magnet school that enrolls more than 58% of its incoming students from the low socioeconomic tier and/or less than 30% of its incoming enrollment from the high socioeconomic tier must be operating pursuant to a Corrective Action Plan that demonstrates reasonable efforts to meet the socioeconomic diversity goals for a reduced isolation setting within an established compliance period. Neither the CCP or the Phase IV Stipulation authorize negative consequences for any school or school operator that does not meet the standards for a reduced isolation setting.

Non-Sheff Magnets

An interdistrict magnet school program outside of the *Sheff* Region must maintain a total school enrollment that is in accordance with the reduced-isolation setting standards for interdistrict magnet school programs, developed by the Commissioner pursuant to section 10-264r. The CSDE issued the [Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards](#) promulgated by the Commissioner on August 19, 2020 (RI Standards). Schools that do not meet such standards must be operating pursuant to a compliance plan that is designed to bring it into compliance with the RI Standards 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. There are no negative consequences for any school or school operator that does not meet the standards for a reduced isolation setting.

Residency Compliance Standards

Sheff Magnets

Sheff magnets also may not enroll more than 75% of the total school enrollment from one school district in order to remain eligible for the interdistrict magnet operating grant. C.G.S. §10-264l provides a waiver for noncompliance with this standard for good cause if the school is operating pursuant to an approved compliance plan designed to bring the school into compliance with the residency enrollment requirements.

Non-Sheff Magnets

In accordance with C.G.S. §10-264l, and the RI Standards, interdistrict magnets schools may not enroll more than 75% of the total school enrollment from one school district in order to remain eligible for the interdistrict magnet operating grant. Section 10-264l provides a waiver for noncompliance with this standard for good cause if the school is operating pursuant to an approved compliance plan designed to bring the school into compliance with the residency enrollment requirements.

Annual Notification to Sending Districts of Magnet Enrollment

C.G.S. Section 10-264l (m)(1)

On or before May 15, 2010, and annually thereafter, each interdistrict magnet school operator shall provide written notification to any school district that is otherwise responsible for educating a student who resides in such school district and will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the operator's control for the following school year. Such notification shall include the number of any such students, by grade, who will be enrolled in an interdistrict magnet school under the control of such operator, the name of the school in which such student has been placed and the amount of tuition to be charged to the local or regional board of education for such student. Such notification shall represent an estimate of the number of students expected to attend such interdistrict magnet schools in the following school year, but shall not be deemed to limit the number of students who may enroll in such interdistrict magnet schools for such year.

[Interdistrict Magnet School Operators: Annual Notification to Sending Districts of Interdistrict Magnet Enrollment](#)

Connecticut State Department of Education Magnet School Policies

Guidelines/Policies on the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships

- [Single School Enrollment Standard](#)
- [Foreign Students Enrollment Policy](#)
- [Dual Enrollment Policy - Open Choice Students Attending a Part-Time Interdistrict Magnet School](#)
- [Commissioner's Interdistrict Magnet Schools Reduced-Isolation Standards](#)
- [\(NEW\) Enrollment Policies for Interdistrict Magnet Schools and Open Choice Programs in the Sheff Region.](#)
- [\(NEW\) Enrollment Policies for Interdistrict Magnet Schools in the Non-Sheff Region](#)
- [Facility Code Policy for Interdistrict Magnet Schools](#)

Magnet Communications and Memos

District and Operator Communications on the Office of Strategic Planning and Partnerships

- [Residency Verification of Students Attending Interdistrict Choice Programs](#)
- [Public School Information System \(PSIS\) Data Used in Grant Calculations](#)
- [Homeless-Federal Law](#)
- [Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program Non-Regulatory Guidance.](#)
- [Comprehensive School Choice Plan](#)