



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Strategic Planning Division
Policy 2023-2

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: February 15, 2023

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 and new legislation.

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.](#)

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

Foreign Student Enrollment

All foreign students attending an interdistrict magnet school (IMS) must be reported in the Public School Information System (PSIS). 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.](#)

IMS Residency and Reduced-Isolation Setting Goals¹

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 Non-Sheff Magnets are expected to comply with *both* the residency and RI goals.

¹ Sections 10-264l and 10-264r of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.), as amended by No. 21-2 of the 2021 Public Acts of the June Special Session.

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 2022-23 school year, CSDE will waive fiscal penalties associated with noncompliance with the residency standard for good cause as determined by the CSDE if the IMS is operating pursuant to a compliance plan approved by the CSDE.

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.²

The RI Standards provide a phase-in for Non-Sheff Magnets that began operations before July 1, 2005, but that phase-in is complete, and requires any such school to meet the RI enrollment goals by October 1 of this school year in 2022-23.

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 RIS goals. IMS operators must complete and submit required compliance plans within the timeframe set by the CSDE to remain eligible for the operating grant.

IMS Per Pupil Rates

Consistent with the above criteria, within available appropriations, the effective rates for Non-Sheff Magnets in 2021-22 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.	In-District \$3,060	Non-District \$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

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.

Region	Type of Operator/ Specific IMS	Enrollment Criteria	Per Pupil Rates
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. §10-264l (Rev. 2019)

Fiscal Target

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 CCP. 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.

Financial Reduction or Financial Penalty

Typically, failure to comply with certain criteria set forth in this memorandum might result in an impact to the IMS operating grant based on CSDE’s review of October 1 enrollment data. However, for 2022-23, IMS operators will not receive a penalty to their grant allocation due to noncompliance with residency requirements or RIS goals as long as the school is operating pursuant to a timely compliance plan approved by the CSDE.

Irrespective of CSDE waiver policies, 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 2022-23 school year, the CSDE will waive fiscal impacts from residency noncompliance for good cause if the IMS completes and submits an approved compliance plan within the timeframe required by CSDE.

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. The IMS must complete and submit the compliance plan within the timeframe required by CSDE

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 at SDE.StrategicPlanning@ct.gov or [860-713-6532](tel:860-713-6532) with any questions.

KMN:rcc

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