



SAINT LOUIS MAGNET & CHOICE SCHOOLS

PROPOSED APPLICATION & LOTTERY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

July 10, 2012

Status



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- **23 Magnet and Choice Schools**
 - One additional planned for 2013-14
- **12,500 students projected for 2012-13**
 - 11,927 projected for 2011-12
 - 11,733 projected for 2010-11
- **9,872 applications received for 2012-13**
 - 9% increase over 2011-12
 - 25% increase over 2010-11
- **75% of students are African American**
 - 10% increase over 2009-10 (last year of court-ordered racial balance requirements)

Background

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- **Parent/user concerns regarding magnet and choice schools application process, timeline and waitlist**
 - February 15th public forum to hear concerns
 - Researched other school district magnet placement process
 - Attended Magnet Schools of America Conference
 - Two meetings with parent group
 - Magnet and choice school principals identified parents
 - Plan formulated

Proposed Plan Outline

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- **Purchase an application and lottery management system**
 - RFP with proposed bid deadline of July 25th
- **Change in processing method and timeline for informing applicants**
 - Acceptance, waitlist and openings information provided earlier and more easily
- **Hire additional staff to address parent/student concerns**
 - Recruiter/counselor positions to inform parents of program options at all District schools and help with application process
- **Parent ambassadors for magnet and choice schools**
 - Peer perspective and help with recruiting families

Application & Lottery Management

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- ❑ **Software geared to online application entry allows streamlined processing, automated lottery and placement, and faster communications to applicants**
 - ❑ Allows families to view application status online, including acceptance and wait list placement
 - ❑ Respond to needs such as gifted testing, eligibility, intent to attend
 - ❑ Applicant kiosks at recruiting events, offices and schools
 - ❑ Paper and verbal application submissions will still be available

Three Pool Lottery and Placement

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- ❑ **Pool A: Applications received between Sep. 1 and Oct. 15 with lottery and notifications by Nov. 1**
- ❑ **Pool B: Applications received between Nov. 15 and Jan. 1 with lottery and notifications by Jan. 15**
- ❑ **Pool C: Applications received between Feb. 1 and Feb. 28 with lottery and notifications by Mar. 15**
- ❑ **Applications submitted after Feb. 28 will be processed and considered for placement on a first come, first served basis**

Wait List

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- **The wait list will be aligned with lottery pools**
 - Pool A applicants wait listed will be considered prior to Pool B and subsequently Pool C in the order drawn in the lottery
 - Wait list based on first choice only

Benefits of Proposed Improvements

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□ **Transparency**

- Online application and communication methods expedite process allowing for better management and availability of information
- Parent review of application status without needing direct contact with staff
- Shorter time between application and notification
- Direct openings information will target applicants to available grades and schools, maximizing acceptance rates
- Reduce concerns regarding lack of clear, available information
- Enhanced customer service and information points for families interested in magnet/choice as well as other District schools