

Magnet Program Eligibility Guidelines for the 2015-2016 School Year

General Information

- Parents must contact schools directly and/or visit their website to obtain the eligibility requirements for each school/program individually.
- Schools may require items that are school specific, such as: recommendation forms, proficiency tests, auditions, etc.
- Individual school requirements must be sent directly to the school(s).
- Students are selected by either random selection (commonly known as “lottery”) or audition
- The criteria will be used to determine eligibility of applicants. Those who meet the criteria will be part of the random selection process and/or be eligible to be selected via audition process.
- It is the parents’ responsibility to contact the school for requirements that are school specific (e.g. recommendation forms, proficiency tests, auditions, etc.).
- Schools retain the right to declare a student ineligible if required documentation is not submitted by January 15th.

A. Basic Criteria for Random Selection Magnets

- A minimum of 2.0 Grade Point Average in core academic subject areas (e.g. language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) and in conduct.
- All effort grades in core academic classes must be a “2” or higher.
- No more than 10 unexcused absences will be allowed for previous year.
- Recommendations may be required.
- FCAT scores can only be reviewed as part of the eligibility process under very limited circumstances.
 - Elementary schools may not review FCAT scores.
 - Secondary schools with a seven or an eight period schedule may not review FCAT scores.
 - Secondary schools with a six period schedule may review FCAT scores to determine if a student has at least one elective period available to take magnet theme courses.

B. IB/IS/Cambridge/Capstone/MAST/iPREP/Terra Requirements (Senior High Only—grades 9-12)

- A minimum of 2.5 Grade Point Average in core academic subject areas (e.g. language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) and in conduct.
- All effort grades in core academic classes must be a “2” or higher.
- No more than 10 unexcused absences will be allowed for previous year.
- May require that Physical Science Honors and Algebra I Honors be completed and received credit before the 2015-16 school year begins.
- Recommendations may be required.

C. Visual & Performing Arts Magnets

- Minimum of 2.0 Grade Point Average in core academic subject areas (e.g. language arts, mathematics, science, social studies) and in conduct.
- All effort grades in core academic classes must be a “2” or higher.
- No more than 10 unexcused absences will be allowed for previous year.
- Placement is based on audition/interview results.
- Parents must contact the school by January 15th to schedule auditions/interviews.
- Schools must submit to the School Choice & Parental Options office a record of audition/interview results by April 1st each year.
- FCAT scores can only be reviewed as part of the eligibility process under very limited circumstances.
 - Elementary schools may not review FCAT scores.
 - Secondary schools with a seven or an eight period schedule may not review FCAT scores.
 - Secondary schools with a six period schedule may review FCAT scores to determine if a student has at least one elective period available to take magnet theme courses.

D. BioTECH/iTech Senior High Requirements

- Admission is interest-based only.
- BioTECH: Students should have an interest in botanical (plant) or zoological (animal) sciences.
- iTech: Students should have an interest in advanced technologies: Geospatial Information Systems(GIS), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) or Microsoft Applications (iCode).
- No teacher recommendation/prerequisites to apply.