



Magnet School Assistance Program (MSAP)

FY2024 Grant Competition Applicant Resource

This document is a brief summary of the Magnet School Assistance Program and application requirements. Do not rely solely on the information in this document for guidance. Please refer to the Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) and the program regulations published in the Federal Register for additional information, as these are the official documents governing the competition.



Magnet School Assistance Program

MSAP promotes **equitable access** for all families to high-quality education that prepares students to succeed academically and in a competitive economy comprised of people from many different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Eligibility: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) or consortia of LEAs implementing a desegregation plan. That desegregation plan can be:

- Voluntary approved by a School Board and submitted to the Department for approval as part of the application or
- Required by a Federal or State Court or Agency

Funding: The estimated range of awards is \$1,500,000 - \$3,500,000 for each 12-month budget period for up to 5 years, with a maximum of **\$15,000,000** for an entire project period.





Purpose of Magnet School Assistance



Since the early 1980s, MSAP has assisted LEAs in the desegregation of schools. Congress has established six main goals for the MSAP, which are listed below.

Equitable Access to High Quality Education

Ensuring that all students enrolled in the magnet school programs have equitable access to high-quality education that will enable the students to succeed academically

Improving Capacity of LEAs

Improving the capacity of LEAs, including through professional development, to continue operating magnet schools at a high-performance level after Federal funding for the magnet schools is terminated

Preparing Students for the Future

Courses of instruction within magnet schools that will substantially strengthen the knowledge of academic subjects and the attainment of tangible and marketable career, technological, and professional skills of students

Preventing Minority Group Isolation

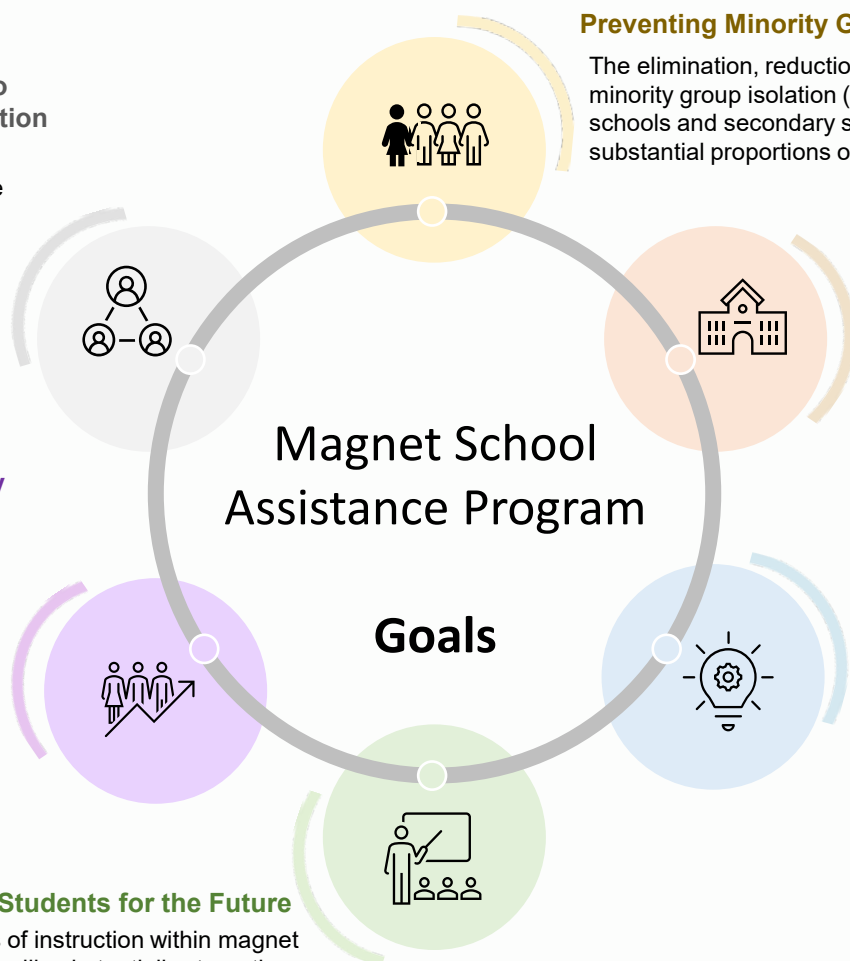
The elimination, reduction, or prevention of minority group isolation (MGI) in elementary schools and secondary schools with substantial proportions of minority students

Magnet School Programs

The development, implementation, and expansion of magnet school programs that will assist LEAs in achieving systemic reforms and providing all students the opportunity to meet challenging State academic standards

Innovative Educational Methods & Practices

The development, design, and expansion of innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity and increase choices in public elementary schools and public secondary schools and public educational programs





Simplifying Eligibility



In order to be eligible for the MSAP program, applicants must be an LEAs or a consortia of LEAs implementing a desegregation plan. This plan can either be required or voluntary, as noted below.



What is a Desegregation Plan?

A **required desegregation plan** is a plan ordered by a court (or other appropriate entity) to remedy the illegal separation of minority group children or faculty in the schools of an LEA.

A **voluntary desegregation plan** is different for each LEA and **does not have to be lengthy**. For MSAP, voluntary plans should include how the LEA plans to eliminate, reduce, or prevent **Minority Group isolation** (MGI), either in the specific, proposed magnet schools or in the magnets' feeder schools (the schools the magnet students would otherwise attend).



What is Minority Group Isolation (MGI)?

MGI refers to **racial isolation of students** from one or more minority groups in schools **where there are substantial proportions of minority students**.

A key component of any MSAP project is that it includes magnet schools to **reduce, eliminate, or prevent** MGI, either in the magnet or in the school which magnet students would otherwise attend.



Reduce



Eliminate



Prevent



For examples of past MSAP grant awardee applications, including desegregation plans, please see the program website, [here](#).





Key Application Elements



MSAP applications will be awarded based on applicants responding to five selection criteria and six optional competitive preference priorities, described below. The maximum score that an application may receive is **125 points**.

Absolute Priorities:

Absolute Priority #1

Applications from New Potential Grantees

Absolute Priority #2

Applications from Grantees That Are *Not* New Potential Grantees

Selection Criteria:

Criteria apply to all applications, regardless of Absolute Priority



Desegregation: quality of desegregation activities, including: the effectiveness of desegregation strategies related to MGI, effectiveness of plan to recruit students from different backgrounds to magnet schools, how the plan will foster interaction among these students and the extent to which there is a conceptual framework underlying the proposed plan

25 points



Project Design: the extent to which: magnet schools will increase academic achievement, training or professional development provided leads to improvements in practice, magnet schools encourage greater parental involvement, involve the collaboration of appropriate partners and the potential for incorporation of the project into ongoing program(s) after the end of federal funding

30 points



Management Plan: the adequacy of the management plan to achieve the objectives on time and within budget, including clearly defined responsibilities, timelines, and milestones and extent to which the costs are reasonable in relation to anticipated benefits

10 points



Project Personnel: the project director and other key personnel are qualified to manage the project and teachers at magnet schools are qualified to implement curriculum

20 points



Project Evaluation: methods that: assess, monitor, and evaluation impact on achievement and integration, include objective performance measures related to outcomes, and will produce promising evidence about project's effectiveness

15 points





Competitive Preference Priorities



The FY 2024 MSAP competition includes Competitive Preference Priority categories which have been established by Congress as tools for promoting educational equity and commitments to excellence. These competitive preference priorities address an LEA's need for MSAP funding, the evidence base undergirding the LEA's program design for new or significantly revitalized magnet schools, the means of student selection for admission including use of lotteries and other non-academic means, and attention to socioeconomic factors in promoting diversity.

Competitive Preference Priority points are not guaranteed and, if awarded, are awarded by peer reviewers who believe applications meet or exceed the guidelines established in the NIA.

Competitive Preference Priorities



Need for Assistance
(up to 2 points)



New or Revised Magnet School Project and Strength of Evidence to Support Proposed Projects
(up to 3 points)



Selection of Students
(up to 3 points)



Socio-Economic Diversity
(up to 5 points)



Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities:
(up to 8 points)

**Available to AP2 applicants only*



Supporting a Diverse Educator Workforce & Professional Growth to Strengthen Student Learning
(up to 4 points)

**Available to AP2 applicants only*





FAQs & Resources



Common Questions

When will I hear if I've gotten an award?

Applications are due May 13, 2024. Funding decisions will be released by the Department no later than September 30, 2024. All applicants will be notified directly of their status.

Where can I find help in creating great magnet schools, MSAP projects, and MSAP applications?

The MSAP TA Center has several toolkits, [linked here](#), on topics like: the Magnet School Development Framework, Logic Models and Performance Measures, and Sustainability assistance.

How do I show eligibility for MSAP?

As noted, eligible applicants for MSAP must be LEAs working under required or voluntary plans which include magnets as a strategy to address MGI and desegregate schools.

Applicants with voluntary plans, must demonstrate current school board (or other entity as appropriate) approval, of a plan which includes the magnets and MGI goals.

Applicants with required plans should demonstrate in their application that they have requested approval to add the magnets as a strategy if not already outlined. Official approval is required prior to funding.

Finally, all applicants must provide current and projected enrollments. Tables are provided on the MSAP Website.



Resources & Contact



[Program Website](#)



[Notice Inviting Applications \(NIA\)](#)

Point of Contact:

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