



The National Association of Magnet and Theme-Based Schools

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Magnet Schools of America Announces First National Certification Program for Magnet Schools

Miami, FL, May 5, 2016— Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association of magnet and theme-based schools, ushered in a new era today by announcing the first national certification program for magnet schools.

The Magnet Schools of America Standards of Excellence Certification Program is designed to recognize the nation’s most exemplary magnet schools and help them as they continue to grow and provide high-quality, innovative curriculum and instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students. National certification also ensures that all schools will be evaluated and measured with the same benchmarks for excellence.

“We are thrilled to launch a national certification process that will validate the outstanding magnet programs across the country and inspire others to achieve similar levels of excellence,” said MSA Executive Director Todd Mann at the 2016 National Conference on Magnet Schools being held in Miami. “For decades, magnets have been changing lives and outperforming all other types of schools. Community members, parents and students can now be confident that each nationally certified magnet school, no matter where it is located, is held to the same high standard.”

The MSA certification process is based on the National Magnet School Standards of Excellence and the five pillars of magnet schools (diversity; innovative curriculum and professional development; academic excellence; high quality instructional systems; and, family and community partnerships). These standards define the essential elements and characteristics of high-quality magnet programs.

To become nationally certified, MSA member schools must submit a detailed application as part of a rigorous evaluation conducted by National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL). Applications will be accepted starting May 10 and the 2016 certification process will be open to the first 100 schools. Additional application cycles will follow annually.

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[Magnet Schools of America \(MSA\)](#) is a nonprofit education association that represents more than 3,800 magnet schools serving 2.6 million students. MSA was founded in 1986 and authorized as a 501(c)3 in 1994. It supports and serves the leaders and teachers of magnet and theme-based schools, while promoting the development of new magnet programs and public schools of choice. It also provides technical assistance through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL).