



*The National Association of Magnet and Theme-Based Schools*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Magnet Schools of America Announces First Cohort of Nationally Certified Magnet Schools**

*Washington, DC, August 23, 2017*— Magnet Schools of America (MSA), the national association of magnet and theme-based schools, announces the first cohort of nationally certified magnet schools. These 55 schools located in 12 states (AL, CA, CT, FL, LA, MD, NC, NV, SC, TN, TX, and WI) successfully completed a nine-month evaluation process and demonstrated through evidence, reflection, and strategic action that they have established the [Magnet School Standards of Excellence](#) in their schools.

“The certification process is groundbreaking and the first of its kind. It was created to recognize our most exemplary magnet programs,” said MSA Executive Director Todd Mann. “In an increasingly complex school choice environment, parents, families, students, and local communities can be assured of the quality of education that is provided in each certified magnet school.”

The national certification process is based on the 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 pillars and standards define the essential elements and characteristics of high-quality magnet programs.

To become nationally certified, MSA member schools submitted a detailed application and participated in a rigorous evaluation conducted by MSA. The application process required schools to submit evidence demonstrating how they met each of the multiple indicators included in the Standards of Excellence. This included providing specific examples of how the school was promoting school diversity, closing the achievement gap, integrating a theme-based curriculum throughout the school, and encouraging parent and community involvement.

Among the first cohort of nationally certified schools, ten were identified as National Demonstration Schools. These schools exceeded the criteria outlined in the Standards of Excellence and are models that should be closely studied and replicated. The Demonstration Schools will serve as learning laboratories for school innovation and improvement for others to observe and follow.

“This is an important opportunity to showcase the transformative leadership and instructional best practices that are integrated into these exceptional schools,” said Kelly Bucherie, National Director for Magnet School Leadership. “The bar has been set very high for magnet schools and other choice programs. Achieving this prominent status should inspire others to strive for similar levels of excellence.”

The first cohort of applicants included 110 schools. Among these schools, 55 were certified, 39 filed for an extension to become certified, and 16 schools did not successfully complete the certification process. A second and third cohort of schools will go through the national certification application process during the 2017-2018 school year. For more information, about the Magnet Schools of America Standards of Excellence Certification Program, please visit: [www.magnet.edu](http://www.magnet.edu)

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About MSA: Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a nonprofit education association that represents more than 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 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).

### National Demonstration Schools

Mission Vista High School	Vista Unified School District	CA
Apollo Middle School	Broward County Public Schools	FL
Air Base K-8 Center For International Education	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Coral Reef Senior High School	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
New World School of the Arts	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Piedmont Middle School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
East Career and Technical Academy	Clark County School District	NV
Walter Bracken STEAM Academy	Clark County School District	NV
STEMS at North Springs Elementary	Richland School District 2	SC
Scott Collegiate Academy	Galveston Independent School District	TX

### Nationally Certified Magnet Schools

New Century Technology High School	Huntsville City Schools	AL
Connecticut River Academy at Goodwin College	LEARN	CT
Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School	Waterbury Public Schools	CT
Jefferson High School	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Lee Elementary Magnet School of World Studies and Technology	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Middleton High School/Pre-Collegiate STEM Academy	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Shore Elementary Magnet School of the Arts	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Sligh Middle Magnet School	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL

Stewart Middle Magnet School	Hillsborough County Public Schools	FL
Design and Architecture Senior High	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Frank C. Martin K-8 Center	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
G.W. Carver Middle School/Center for International Education	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Herbert A. Ammons Middle School	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
John F. Kennedy Middle School BEAT Magnet Program	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Medical Academy for Science and Technology	Miami-Dade County Public Schools	FL
Douglas L. Jamerson, Jr. Elementary, Center for Mathematics and Engineering	Pinellas County Schools	FL
South Seminole Middle School	Seminole County Public Schools	FL
Baton Rouge Magnet High School	East Baton Rouge Parish Schools	LA
Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts	East Baton Rouge Schools	LA
Cromwell Valley Elementary Regional Magnet School of Technology	Baltimore County Public Schools	MD
Barringer Academic Center	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
Chantilly Montessori	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
Cotswold Elementary	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
Idlewild Elementary School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
Legette Blythe Elementary IB World School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
Randolph Middle School	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	NC
A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary	Wake County Public School System	NC
Brentwood Magnet Elementary School of Engineering	Wake County Public School System	NC
Conn Active Learning and Technology Magnet Elementary	Wake County Public School System	NC
Douglas Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School	Wake County Public School System	NC
Farmington Woods IB/PYP Magnet Elementary School	Wake County Public School System	NC
Hunter GT / AIG Magnet Elementary	Wake County Public School System	NC
Millbrook High School	Wake County Public School System	NC

Wendell Creative Arts and Science Magnet Elementary School	Wake County Public School System	NC
Wiley International Studies Magnet Elementary School	Wake County Public School System	NC
RJ Reynolds Arts Magnet School	Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools	NC
Cashman Middle School/Academy of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering	Clark County School District	NV
Ed W. Clark High School	Clark County School District	NV
Mabel Hoggard Magnet Elementary School	Clark County School District	NV
Northwest Career and Technical Academy	Clark County School District	NV
Southwest Career and Technical Academy	Clark County School District	NV
E. L. Wright Middle School (IB and Leadership Academy at Wright)	Richland School District 2	SC
Richland Northeast High School	Richland School District 2	SC
Chattanooga High School Center for Creative Arts	Hamilton County Schools	TN
Summit View Elementary Magnet School of Integrated Arts, Design and Creativity	School District of Waukesha	WI