

**San Francisco Unified School District
San Francisco, California**

Superintendent's Proposal

104-27Sp3 – Approval of Magnet Schools Assistance Grant Application and All Supporting Documents

WHEREAS: The San Francisco Unified School District ("SFUSD") was under court order to desegregate its schools for more than 30 years; and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD has been released from its court-ordered desegregation obligations and is no longer under the jurisdiction of the court; and

WHEREAS: Beginning in December of 2008, the SFUSD Board of Education convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Student Assignment to provide public input regarding the redesign of the student assignment policy; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Education established three priorities for the redesign of the plan: reversing the trend of racial isolation and the concentration of underserved students in the same school; providing equitable access to the range of opportunities offered to students and providing transparency at every stage of the assignment process; and

WHEREAS: From December 2008 through January of 2010, the Board of Education held monthly Ad Hoc Committee meetings and staff sought guidance from local and national partners, analyzed current conditions, explored student assignment options and gathered feedback from the community; and

WHEREAS: As a result of public input, Board discussions, research and analysis, staff concluded that student assignment is only one part of creating educational environments in which all students can be successful and that strong and effective programs that attract students from diverse backgrounds are another part of creating such environments; and

WHEREAS: Staff developed a theory of action that took these conclusions into account in the development of its student assignment policy; and

WHEREAS: On March 9, 2010, the Board of Education approved a new student assignment policy that has ten goals, including: facilitating student diversity with parameters of current law; aligning with other District initiatives designed to avoid racial isolation and the concentration of underserved students in the same schools; and providing equitable access to the range of opportunities offered to students (see Attachment A); and

WHEREAS: The SFUSD is seeking Magnet Schools Assistance Program ("MSAP") funding for the 2010-11 through 2012-13 school years through the submission of a MSAP grant application; and

WHEREAS: As part of the MSAP grant application, the SFUSD is required to submit a voluntary plan that complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and that includes the new magnet programs for which the SFUSD is seeking funding in its MSAP grant application for 2010-11 through 2012-13; and

WHEREAS: The student assignment policy adopted by the SFUSD Board of Education on March 9, 2010 is SFUSD's voluntary integration plan for purposes of the MSAP grant application requirements; and

WHEREAS: Pursuant to the attached voluntary plan, the SFUSD will implement new magnet programs as city-wide programs at four schools; and

WHEREAS: The schools and new magnet programs are: Leonard R. Flynn and John Muir Elementary Schools, which will implement International Baccalaureate programs for primary grades called the Primary Years Programme; Everett Middle School, which will implement a visual and performing arts theme and the International Studies Academy, which will implement an International Baccalaureate program; and

WHEREAS: Additional resources are necessary to implement the new magnet programs at the four schools; and

WHEREAS: The United States Congress in the MSAP has recognized that eliminating, reducing, and preventing minority group isolation in the schools in this country is a compelling governmental interest and has provided federal funding to address this compelling governmental interest; and

WHEREAS: In the MSAP, Congress also has recognized that the development of magnet schools will assist school districts in: achieving systemic reform; providing all students the opportunity to meet challenging State academic content standards; developing innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity and increase choices in public schools; strengthening the knowledge of academic subjects and the attainment of tangible and marketable vocational skills of students attending magnet schools; improving the capacity to continue to operate magnet schools at a high performance level after Federal funding is terminated; and ensuring that all students enrolled in magnet schools have equitable access to high quality education that will enable them to succeed academically and to continue with postsecondary education or productive employment; and

WHEREAS: The proposed new magnet programs address the purposes and goals of the MSAP, and the SFUSD has developed a grant application requesting federal funding to assist with providing the resources necessary for the new magnet programs to be implemented; and

WHEREAS: As required by the MSAP, SFUSD has designed its strategies to recruit students from diverse backgrounds and to assign students by lottery based on student choice without using academic admission criteria; and

WHEREAS: The MSAP grant application of SFUSD is consistent with the goals, definitions, and eligibility of the MSAP; and

WHEREAS: As required by the MSAP, the SFUSD will to continue to operate its schools in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District authorizes the Superintendent or his designee to submit a MSAP grant application under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program in the approximate amount of approximately \$8.5 million to support a three-year effort to develop and implement new magnet programs at Leonard R. Flynn Elementary School, John Muir Elementary School, Everett Middle School and the International Studies Academy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Superintendent be requested to implement the new magnet programs if the SFUSD is awarded funds under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program.

4/27/10