

# 2017-2018 Magnet Schools of Merit Awards Application

Deadline: Tuesday, November 28



## I. Cover Page

**NOMINEE ASSURANCE AND SIGNATURE:** I attest to the accuracy of the information submitted for review by the MSA National Office, Merit Awards Committee and Merit Readers and give my permission for Magnet Schools of America to publish and release any and all information included in this application.

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUPERINTENDENT/DESIGNEE SIGNATURE:** I attest to the accuracy of the information submitted by the above Principal for the 2017-2018 Magnet Schools of Merit Awards Program.

*Signature:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible for participation in the Magnet Schools of America Merit Awards Program, the following apply: (1) must be a member in good standing of Magnet Schools of America for 2017-2018 by Friday, November 3, 2017; and (2) must have implemented the magnet program for a minimum of four years (with the exception of applications for the New and Emerging Magnet School category (designed for magnet schools in their second or third year of implementation).



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**Dr. Ronald P. Simpson School of Excellence Award** (\$5,000) is given annually to the nation's top magnet school, named after MSA's founding member.

**Dr. Donald R. Waldrip School of Excellence Award** (\$2,500) is given to the 2<sup>nd</sup> magnet school in the nation; named after MSA's first Executive Director.

**Elementary Magnet School of Excellence Award** (\$2,500) is given to one of the top magnets in the nation, at the elementary level.

**Secondary Magnet School of Excellence Award** (\$2,500) is given to one of the top magnets in the nation, at the secondary level.

**New & Emerging Magnet School of Excellence Award** (\$1,000) is given to an exemplary magnet in its early years, making great strides.

**MSA President's School of Excellence Award** (no cash award) is given to one of the top magnets in the nation.

*MISSION STATEMENT:*

*Providing leadership for high quality innovative instructional programs that promote choice, equity, diversity, and academic excellence for all students.*

## **EXCELLENCE + INNOVATION + DIVERSITY + COMMUNITY**

All magnet schools share the philosophy of executing innovative programs with a dedication to diversity and an unwavering commitment to academic standards – because that is the Magnet School 'standard.'

The Magnet School of Merit Awards elevates that standard to recognize member magnet schools/programs that demonstrate an exemplary commitment to academic standards, curriculum innovation, desegregation/diversity efforts, specialized teaching staffs and parent and community involvement.

The 2017-2018 Merit Award Categories are:

- School of Excellence – New & Emerging
- School of Excellence – Program Within-a-School\*
- School of Excellence – Whole School Magnet
- School of Distinction – New & Emerging
- School of Distinction – Program Within-a-School\*
- School of Distinction – Whole School Magnet

*\*Program Within-a-School programs must consist of at least twenty percent (20%) of the student population involved in the program OR a minimum of 200 students.*

The **Magnet School of Excellence** is the top merit award category and is only awards to a select group of magnet schools.

The **Magnet School of Distinction** is the second highest award of recognition.

*Cash awards are provided to the top Magnet Schools of Excellence.*

*ALL PREVIOUS MONETARY AWARD WINNERS are NOT eligible to receive cash awards for five years after the initial award, but are eligible for the Excellence and Distinction award categories.*

*Exception: A New and Emerging School, having completed its fourth year, may be eligible for other cash awards in their category.*

**School Site Visits:** Schools of Excellence selected for consideration for the Dr. Ronald P. Simpson Award will be visited by a team and are required to prepare a notebook of documentation in support of **each section** of their application. Specific instructions will be provided to these selected schools by the National Office.

*Monetary Award Candidates, will be asked to provide a three-minute overview of their school to be shown at the National Conference.*

Schools of Distinction and Schools of Excellence will be recognized at the National Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

# DIRECTIONS:

Deadline: Tuesday, November 28

Complete the application for the specific award for which you are applying. ALL applications are to be submitted online at [www.magnet.edu](http://www.magnet.edu) on or before **Tuesday, November 28, 2017**. A twenty (20) second video in M-PEG4/MP4 format AND one PowerPoint slide must be uploaded and shared via [GoogleDrive](https://www.google.com/drive/) with [awards@magnet.edu](mailto:awards@magnet.edu) on or before **Friday, December 29, 2017**.

- I. COVER PAGE\*: **Complete with the Principal and Superintendent/Designee signatures** at the time of submission;
- II. GENERAL INFORMATION\*: **Complete online** during the submission process;
- III. ABSTRACT\*: **Complete online** during the submission process;
- IV. APPLICATION GUIDELINES\*: Complete all of the specific instructions for the application. Each narrative section **will be completed online** AND **data tables uploaded in EXCEL format** (templates are provided for the data tables); and
- V. LETTERS OF SUPPORT\*: **Two** letters of support for the award, one from a parent or parent group, AND one from a partnering organization **will be uploaded online separately**.

\*REQUIRED

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION: *complete online during submission process*

School/Program Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*This will be used for the plaque, if awarded.*

Website URL: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Check One (✓):  Elementary School  Secondary School (includes middle and high schools)

*Note: The selection of elementary or secondary will determine the award category for which your school will be eligible.*

Magnet Theme(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Magnet: Check one (✓)  Whole School Magnet  Program Within-a-School

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Years as a Magnet: \_\_\_\_\_

School District: \_\_\_\_\_ Check One (✓):  Rural  Suburban  Urban

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Magnet Coordinator/Lead Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

District Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels:     K-12    

Whole School Magnet Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Within-A-School Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

Whole School Enrollment\*\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Levels: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Required for Program Within-A-School Applicants*

Are students selected by a lottery process (✓)?  Yes  No. If no, describe selection process and any variables that impact on magnet school enrollment/acceptance:

Does the school use academic criteria for admission (i.e., test scores, GPA, etc.) (✓)?  Yes  No

Magnet School of Merit  New and Emerging Magnet School of Merit

ALL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE READER FEEDBACK ON YOUR MERIT APPLICATION



# 2017-2018 Merit Awards Program

Deadline:  
Tuesday, November 28

## III. ABSTRACT *up to 700 characters, including spaces*

Submit a description of your magnet program. *Please make sure all information provided in the abstract is supported in the application.* This abstract will be posted on the MSA website for winning entries and may be used for other publications.

## IV. APPLICATION GUIDELINES *MUST USE Data Table Template in EXCEL*

You must use the following outline below to complete the narrative section of the proposal. Special attention should be given to “describe and highlight” those exemplary and unique aspects of the magnet school which are above and beyond program components found in traditional, non-magnet schools. For example, “having an active Parent Teacher Association (PTA)” is not considered a unique level of parent and community involvement specific to magnets. Please spell out all abbreviations and acronyms, EXAMPLE: Supplemental Educational Services (SES). The application must follow the same order as the narrative components listed below, A1. – C3. and E1. - F1. (with the exception of sections B4. – B8., and D1.) **Applicants for the New and Emerging School category are required to provide data for the years that the school has been a magnet (e.g., two or three).**

### **A. Program Overview; No Tables/Charts/Graphs – 30 Points**

**The proposal should include the following:**

1. A clearly defined mission and vision statement which relates to the magnet theme; (5pts) *up to 1050 characters, including spaces\**
2. How the magnet theme is integrated throughout the school in core classes as well as electives and co-curricular activities; (10pts) *up to 2800 characters, including spaces*
3. A summary of how the alignment of your goals, objectives and educational activities support the magnet theme; (10pts) *up to 2800 characters, including spaces*
4. How the program/school promotes equitable access to all demographic groups, including but not limited to English “Language” Learners and students who receive special education services. (5pts) *up to 1750 characters, including spaces*

## B. Demographic Profile – WS=20/PWAS=25 Points

The proposal should include the following:

1. A description of the student diversity plan (if there is a diversity goal) or a description on how student diversity is leveraged and maximized; (10pts) *up to 2800 characters, including spaces*
2. How the student enrollment reflects the diversity plan; (10pts) *up to 2100 characters, including spaces*
3. Are students selected by a lottery process that does not include academic criteria; (1pt bonus) *up to 350 characters, including spaces*
4. For programs within a school, a description on how students in the program and school have academic opportunities to interact; (5pts) *up to 2800 characters, including spaces\**

DATA FORM – must use provided template in EXCEL. **REQUIRED**

5. Current programs within a school enrollment by racial/ethnic categories, and totals (# & %);
6. Current school enrollment by racial/ethnic categories, and totals (# & %);
7. District enrollment by racial/ethnic categories (# & %);
8. Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligibility for students in the district/school/program (# & %);  
*Optional*

## C. Innovative Instructional Strategies; No Tables/Charts/Graphs – 30 Points

The proposal should include the following:

1. A description of how the innovative instructional practices are implemented; (10pts) *up to 2450 characters, including spaces*
2. How professional development activities enhance instructional delivery, and are aligned with the magnet theme; *For example: What are you doing to support your Magnet theme-teacher staff and all other instructional staff to understand the Magnet-theme philosophy/goals & objectives?* (10pts) *up to 2100 characters, including spaces*
3. How multiculturalism (including cultural competency) is infused into the magnet school/program curriculum--*not just festivals and/or holidays.* (10pts) *up to 1750 characters, including spaces*

## D. Student Achievement (Reading and Math OR other areas determined by your State Department of Education) – 20 Points

The proposal should include the following:

1. School, district, and state achievement data for enrolled students is disaggregated by race for the last 4 academic years. Schools must indicate new assessments and provide documentation from the state when data is unavailable. If your state no longer allow the publishing of test information disaggregated in conjunction with FRL, an aggregated template is provided (for New & Emerging schools, report data for the years covered in the application). (5pts)

*Must use provided template. REQUIRED*

2. Explanation of student achievement data; include graduation rates for high school (if applicable) for 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016 and 2016-2017. (15pts) *up to 5600 characters, including spaces\**

cont'd...  
APPLICATION  
GUIDELINES

**Deadline: Tuesday, November 28**

## E. Parent and Community Involvement

*No Tables/Charts/Graphs - 10 Points*

The proposal should include the following:

1. How partnerships formed with parents, community groups and other organizations connect to and support student learning and are aligned to the magnet theme (beyond fundraising); (8pts) *up to 1750 characters, including spaces*
2. Two letters of support for the Magnet Schools of America Merit Award, one from a parent or parent group AND one from a partnering organization. (1pt per letter) **REQUIRED**

## F. Awards and Achievements

*No Tables/Charts/Graphs - 5 Points*

The proposal should include the following:

1. Significant achievements and school awards received during the last three years as covered by the application (receiving a grant is not considered a significant achievement for this specific section). *up to 1050 characters, including spaces*

## TIPS and REMINDERS:

- ✓ Draft abstract & narrative in a WORD document by section.
- ✓ Free of grammatical and spelling errors
- ✓ Make sure not to exceed maximum number of characters per section.
- ✓ Use provided data templates for demographic and student achievement.
- ✓ Suggestion: Have someone with little/no education background read your application with the rubric to make sure all of the information that is being asked is included, is short & concise, and easy to follow.
- ✓ **UPLOAD and SHARE** via GoogleDrive with [awards@magnet.edu](mailto:awards@magnet.edu) on or before December 29, 2017.
  - o TWENTY second video in MPEG4 format (*Scream Your Theme*)
  - o Showcase your school in ONE creative powerpoint slide to include: School Name, School District, State, Principal and Grade Levels

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## DISQUALIFICATION OF APPLICATION

- ❖ Additional attachments WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
- ❖ Late applications WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.



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