



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Statement from Todd Mann, Executive Director of Magnet Schools of America, in response to the Administration’s Decision to Rescind School Diversity Guidelines:**

*Washington, DC, July 12, 2018*—Research shows that classrooms with students from a wide variety of backgrounds improve achievement, create access to valuable resources, and are better learning environments. Magnet schools were created in the wake of *Brown v. Board*, with the foundational belief that American students – and American democracy – are better off when our classrooms comprise a wide range of differences and perspectives. This remains the cornerstone of the work we do every day to improve access to high-quality education options. Consequently, we cannot abide efforts to make it more difficult for schools to promote racial diversity in their classrooms.

Diversity is one of the five pillars of magnet schools – an essential component of what creates a strong learning environment for our students. Through lotteries and recruitment, magnets serve student populations that are reflective of our diverse nation. Learning with students who come from different backgrounds creates a more global education experience – one in which students build empathy and understanding for one another across different races and socioeconomic statuses. Diverse classrooms promote authentic engagement, collaboration and teamwork, ultimately preparing America’s students for future successes beyond school walls.

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About MSA: Magnet Schools of America (MSA) is a nonprofit education association that was founded in 1986. It represents more than 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 million students. MSA 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).

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