



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Magnet Schools of America Recognizes 11 New Nationally Certified Schools**

*August 17, 2020* — Magnet Schools of America (MSA) has named five new nationally certified schools and six new certified demonstration schools, bringing the total number of national certified schools across the country to 167. As leading examples of magnet school excellence, these schools provide outstanding learning opportunities for their students, and join a growing cohort of recognized magnet programs across the country.

Magnet Schools of America's National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL) developed the certification program in 2016 as a roadmap for magnet schools to reach their fullest potential. Schools are assessed on the [Magnet School Standards of Excellence](#) and the [five pillars of magnet schools](#). Certification applicants submit detailed examples of their work to promote diversity, remove barriers to student success and implement an innovative curriculum, as well as encourage parent and community partnerships in their schools. Becoming a certified magnet school is an extensive, rigorous process that helps schools strengthen their top qualities and gain national recognition for their success.

This cohort's newly certified schools are located across seven states: Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina and Texas.

Six of the certified schools were also identified as National Demonstration Schools. These schools not only meet the Standards of Excellence, but exceed the criteria and serve as learning models for magnets across the country to replicate. Among the 167 certified schools to date, 42 have been designated as National Demonstration Schools.

"We are proud to celebrate our new nationally certified schools," said Kelly Bucherie, Director for Magnet School Leadership at Magnet Schools of America. "During an uncertain and difficult year, these schools showed what's possible when faculty, parents, students and communities come together to do what it takes to deliver a high-quality education for all students. They worked tirelessly to meet the Standards of Excellence, while promoting diversity and innovative curriculums in the classroom, and fostering high-quality learning environments for their students. We're thrilled to see their hard work and commitment to excellence pay off."

MSA is still accepting applications for certification through September 30, 2020. For more information about Magnet Schools of America's Certification Program, visit: <https://magnet.edu/certification/national-certification>.

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**Magnet Schools of America (MSA)** is a nonprofit education association that represents more than 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 million students across 46 states and the District of Columbia. 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. It also provides technical assistance through the National Institute for Magnet School Leadership (NIMSL).

### 2020 Nationally Certified Demonstration Schools

School/Program Name	State	Region	District	Principal
MS 358	NY	1	New York Dept of Education	Brendan T. Mims
Vernon Malone College and Career Academy	NC	4	Wake County Public Schools	Abby Stotsenberg
Reedy Creek Magnet Middle School Center for the Digital Sciences	NC	4	Wake County Public Schools	H. Trent Evans
Miami Lakes Educational Center	FL	3	Miami Dade County Public Schools	Yaset Fernandez
W.J. Bryan Elementary Museums Magnet School	FL	3	Miami Dade County Public Schools	Milagros Maytin-Miret
Forest Lake Elementary NASA Explorer School	SC	4	Richland School District Two	Kappy Steck

### 2020 Nationally Certified Magnet Schools

School/Program Name	State	Region	District	Principal
Morrow High School Magnet Program	GA	3	Clayton County Public Schools	Pamela Pitts
Ball High School - BioMedical and STEM Communities	TX	5	Galveston Independent School District	Joseph Pillar
San Antonito STEM Magnet Elementary	NM	5	Albuquerque Public Schools	Patricia Gallegos
Zebulon Magnet Middle School	NC	4	Wake County Public Schools	Candis Jones
Fuller Gifted and Talented/AIG Basics Magnet Elementary School	NC	4	Wake County Public Schools	Kendra Culberson