

**Magnet Schools of America, Inc.**  
**Association By-Laws**  
**4005 Wisconsin Ave. NW #5997**  
**Washington, DC 20016**

*Adopted by Membership in April 2026*

**Article I. Name**

**Section 1:** This Association shall be known as Magnet Schools of America, Inc.

**Article II. Mission and Pillars**

**Section 1: Mission**

To champion high quality magnet and theme-based schools across the nation by empowering educators, supporting students, and strengthening school communities through advocacy, professional development, expert guidance, and collaborative networks.

**Section 2: Pillars of Magnet Schools**

- A. *Diversity* is a cornerstone to offering students a global educational experience. Schools, through recruitment and lotteries, strive to have student populations that are reflective of the community. Culturally competent educational environments model empathy, respect and working collaboratively with a variety of persons.
- B. *Innovative Curriculum and Development* is developed to assure theme-based relevant instruction to students. Effective teaching strategies, emulating best practices, are implemented through the inclusion of the school's theme. Curriculum is based on high quality rigorous standards that prepare students for higher education and career success.
- C. *Academic Excellence* is demonstrated through a commitment to multi-dimensional instruction focused on the learner needs. Multiple assessment strategies are employed to monitor student learning, progress and success. High expectations are clearly articulated and personalized supports are in place to address the interests and aspirations of all students.
- D. *Leadership* at the school and district level is demonstrated by a commitment to continuous collaboration and monitoring by administrators for effective magnet school organization and systemic improvements. Leadership is rooted in well-educated professional educators. Decisions about hiring, budgets, training, and pathways are collaborative and focus on sustainability of high-quality instructional systems.
- E. *Family and Community Partnerships* are mutually beneficial, offer a system of support, shared ownership and a caring spirit and are designed to enhance a theme integrated educational environment. Partnerships with parents are essential for a rich educational experience for students. Community partnerships include a diverse array of stakeholders including business, health and human services, and policy makers to support the education of all students.

## **Article III. Membership**

### **Section 1: Membership Categories**

- A. Individual Membership (e.g., student, parent, teacher, principal, counselor, magnet coordinator, district administrator, researcher, advocate, etc.)
- B. District Membership
- C. Institutional Membership (e.g., school, nonprofit organization, corporate sponsor)

**Section 2:** Specific membership benefits are listed in MSA's Policies and Procedures Manual.

**Section 3:** All voting members of the Board of Directors must be members of Magnet Schools of America.

**Section 4:** Membership dues will be set by action of the Executive Committee.

## **Article IV. Dues**

**Section 1:** Dues for Individual, Institutional Members, and District Members shall be reviewed annually and set by the Executive Committee. These shall be payable upon joining, and annually thereafter on or before July 1, but no later than October 1.

**Section 2:** Unpaid dues for a period of three months will result in membership termination by the National Office.

## **Article V. Executive Committee**

**Section 1:** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, Immediate Past President, President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian will be a voting member of the Board of Directors but not of the Executive Committee. The Parliamentarian may be appointed from the general membership or from the sitting Board of Directors.

**Section 2:** Executive Committee members consisting of the President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President shall serve a term of two years. The Secretary and Treasurer have no term limits. The President-Elect, upon serving two years, shall assume the position of the President on the first day of the first month following the National Conference on Magnet Schools. The President will become the Immediate Past President.

**Section 3:** A nominee for President-Elect or President must be a current board member in good standing, and have served a full two-year term on the Board of Directors at the time of assuming the position of President-Elect.

## **Article VI. Duties of Executive Committee**

**Section 1:** The President shall preside at the Annual Business Meeting and all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Executive Committee members shall be invited to participate in all committees and project work group meetings as they are able. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall perform all other duties pertaining to this office, as appropriate to the Mission and Pillars of Magnet Schools of America.

**Section 2:** The President-Elect shall, in the absence of the President, perform the responsibilities of the President; he/she shall assume office on the first day of the first month following the conclusion of the National Conference on Magnet Schools.

**Section 3:** The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), staff and President of Magnet Schools of America. shall coordinate the on-site preparation of the National Conference in cooperation with the local conference committee members.

**Section 4:** The Secretary shall keep accurate records and reports of the meetings of the Board of Directors, and the Annual Business Meeting; he/she shall have charge of all committee reports submitted for the record.

**Section 5:** Treasurer shall report all dues and other monies to which the association is entitled as well as financial data as appropriate to all meetings of the Board of Directors including the members at the Annual Business Meeting, based on financial reports submitted by the CEO of Magnet Schools of America, Inc. He/she shall co-sign checks with the CEO in accordance with policy established by the Executive Committee, and prepare the annual budget in cooperation with the CEO and the Executive Committee.

**Section 6:** The National Office shall update MSA's Policies and Procedures Manual on an annual basis based on Board action.

**Section 7:** The Executive Committee shall determine the frequency of fiscal audits and reviews to ensure the financial health of the organization.

## **Article VII. Board of Directors**

- A. Region I: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, District of Columbia
- B. Region II: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming
- C. Region III: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands
- D. Region IV: Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, International
- E. Region V: Arkansas, Colorado, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
- F. Region VI: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin

**Section 1:** The Board of Directors shall consist of the Executive Committee, six (6) Regional Directors, four (4) Specialized Directors (two (2) elected, two (2) appointed), one (1) representative of the Past President’s Advisory Committee, and a Parliamentarian if appointed by the President.

**Section 2:** Regional Directors and Specialized Directors shall not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same position. Each term is two (2) years.

**Section 3:** All voting members of the Board of Directors must be members of Magnet Schools of America.

**Section 4:** The Board of Directors meets three (3) times a year (with at least two (2) in-person meetings, including the national conference). Board members are expected to attend all meetings (with reimbursement allowable). The President may call additional meetings as needed to conduct the business of the organization.

**Section 5:** Regional Structure. The regional structure shall consist of six (6) geographical regions with an elected Regional Director for each region. The Regional Directors are voted upon by the membership of their respective regions during the National Conference on Magnet Schools.

**Section 6:** Specialized Directors. Up to two (2) specialized directors shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of the Executive Committee and voted on by the board in accordance with Article VII, Section 1. Two (2) specialized directors shall be elected by the MSA membership.

**Section 7:** Vacancies. In the event of any vacancy due to resignation, removal, or abandonment of a board position, a replacement may be appointed by the President for the remainder of the term of the position with approval from the EC, and approved by the Board.

## **Article VIII. Duties of the Board of Directors**

### **Section 1: General Duties:**

- A. Shall articulate the Mission and Pillars of the organization.
- B. Shall attend all Board Meetings.
- C. Shall serve as an active member of a MSA Committee or Project Work Group.
- D. Shall assist the National Office with membership recruitment and retention.
- E. Shall serve as a liaison to provide support from a specific geographical area.
- F. Shall provide information to the National Office related to activities within the state/region/nation.
- G. Shall facilitate meetings, as appropriate, at the National Conference.
- H. Shall contribute to MSA publications by sharing local news, events, and features.
- I. Shall adhere to **Conflict of Interest** and Roles and Responsibilities Guidelines.

## **Article IX. Board Committees**

**Section 1:** Standing Committees of the Association shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall include “A-G” as appropriate to the operation of the organization.

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Finance Committee, comprised of the Executive Committee
- C. Human Resources Committee, comprised of the Executive Committee
- D. Regional Directors Committee
- E. Governance Committee
- F. Past Presidents Advisory Committee
- G. Awards & Recognition Committee

**Section 2:** Operating Committees, known as Project Work Groups, shall be established by the President as shall its chairs and members, and shall reflect the diversity of the Board of Directors. The Project Work Groups are established to support the organization's mission and strategic focus. Ad hoc groups are established as necessary to address a short-term need/project.

## **Article X. Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**

**Section 1:** The President and designated members of the Executive Committee shall recommend the appointment of the CEO for approval by the Board of Directors. A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the full Board of Directors is required.

**Section 2:** The CEO carries out the policies of the Board, operational policies and practices, and ensures adherence to the MSA Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Manual, and the Strategic Plan.

**Section 3:** MSA shall maintain general liability insurance and directors' and officers' liability insurance.

## **Article XI. Parliamentary Procedure**

**Section 1:** All meetings shall follow *Robert's Rules of Order*, Newly Revised, and current edition.

**Section 2:** A quorum shall constitute the presence of a majority of the Board present at meetings of the Board. When a quorum is once present to organize a meeting, it is not broken by the subsequent withdrawal of any member. The members present may adjourn the meeting despite the absence of a "quorum."

**Section 3:** A vote of the Board of Directors may be held electronically if the issues are clearly delineated.

## **Article XII. Elections**

**Section 1:** Election procedures will consist of a weighted voting system to allow an equitable balance between Individual Members, Institutional Members, and District Members.

## **Article XIII. Amendment of Bylaws**

**Section 1:** Proposed amendments approved by a vote of the membership shall take effect upon approval and will be published in MSA's newsletter. Amendments to the bylaws may be proposed by any member in writing and submitted to the President of Magnet Schools of America.

**Section 2:** A two-thirds (2/3) majority of the votes cast to amend the by-laws by the membership identified as in good standing is required for an amendment to carry.