

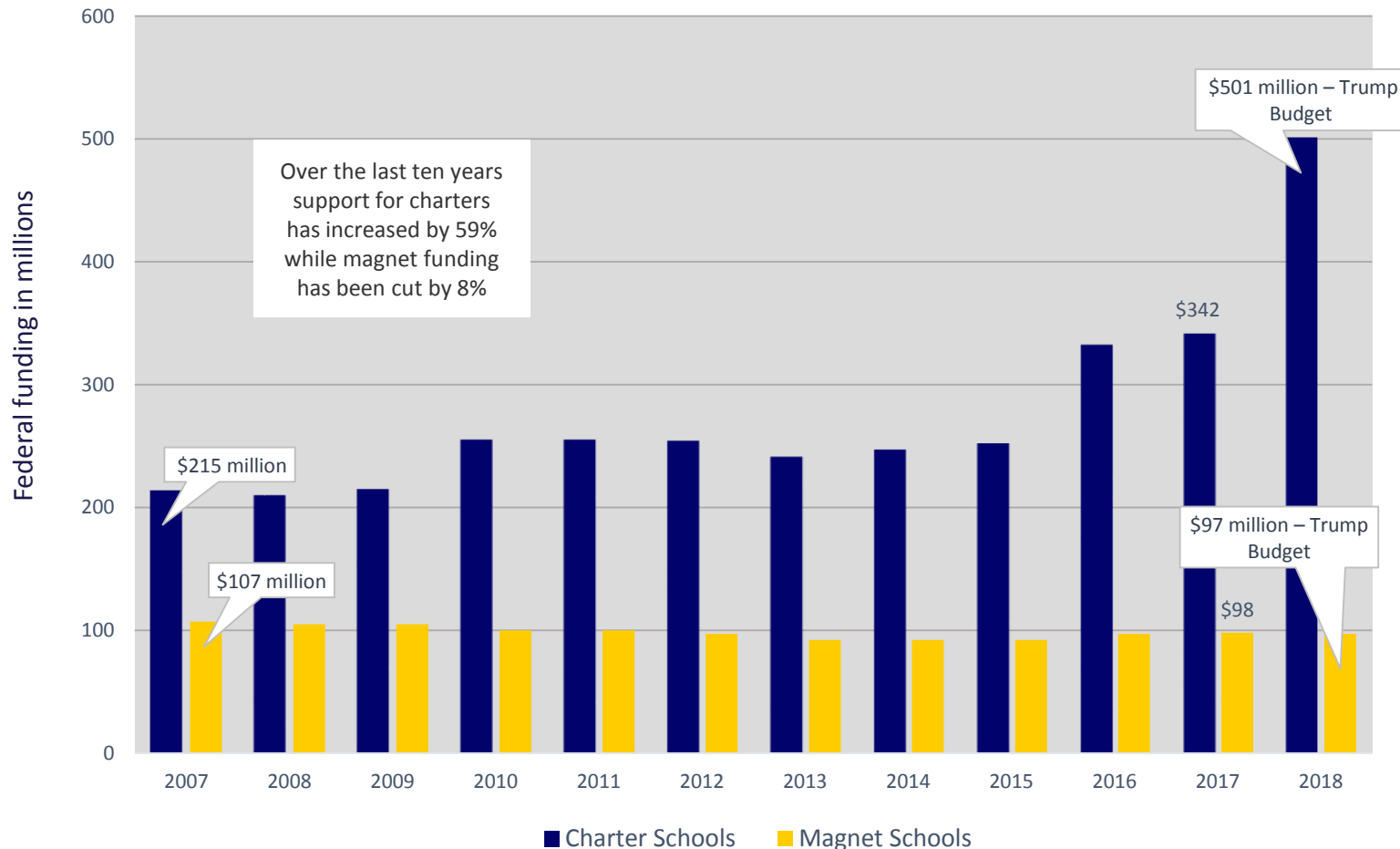


# Building Support for Magnet Schools

# Magnet Schools: The Largest Provider of Public School Choice

*While serving nearly twice as many students per school, magnets are forced to do more with less.*

## Public School Choice – Search for Parity

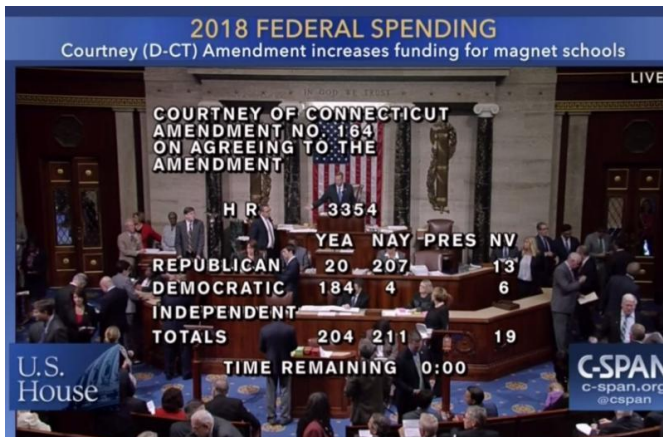
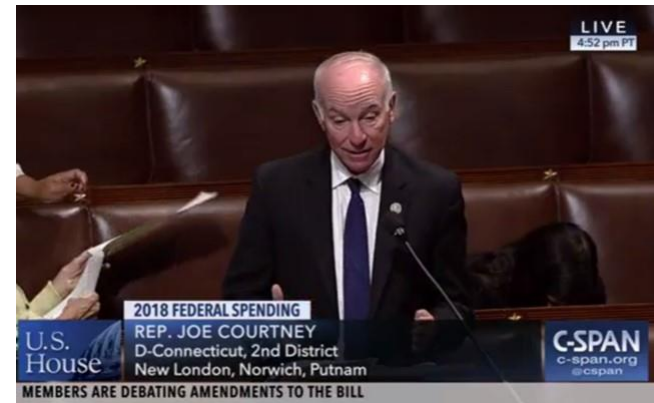


**Magnet Schools** – serve nearly **3.5 million** students in 4,340 schools making them the largest form of school choice.

**Charter Schools** - educate nearly **3 million** children in the United States in 6,800 schools.

# MSAP Amendment

"If you go back a decade the disparity between charter and magnet school federal funding was 2-1. Today, the disparity between the two is 4-1. My amendment says ENOUGH."



**MSA Action** - Prior to the consideration of the amendment - 29 MSA members made phone calls to their congressional representatives.

# MSAP Funding Letter

- Signed by **25 Members of Congress** including the Ranking Member of the House Education and Workforce Committee Bobby Scott, the Chair of the Congressional STEAM Caucus, and several members of the Congressional Black Caucus and Congressional Hispanic Caucus.
- The letter was submitted to the Chair and Ranking Member of the House Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Subcommittee on April 4, 2017.
- This is the third straight year Congressman Courtney has sponsored this letter. Together we have increased the number of signatories by 17 since 2015.

# Champion of Magnet School Excellence

U.S. Congresswoman Barbara Lee



"More than 60 years have passed since Brown v. Board of Education and our nation's schools and communities still suffer from the vestiges of school segregation and many of our largest school districts remain starkly separated along racial and economic lines."

**"Additional support for magnet programs to promote school integration is long overdue!"**



**Authorizing Committees –**  
Responsible for  
drafting legislation or  
“authorizing” laws related to  
agencies and programs,  
including the Every Students  
Succeeds Act

House Committee on Education  
and Workforce Committee

Senate Health, Education,  
Labor, Pensions  
Committee (HELP)



**Appropriations  
Committees** – Congress  
annually funds U.S. federal  
agencies and programs  
through its 12 specialized  
subcommittees.

**Labor, Health and Human Services,  
and Education Subcommittee**

*Department of Education and MSAP*

Fiscal Year (October 1 –  
September 30)

# Authorizations vs. Appropriations

- Authorization bills establish and set rules for programs, while appropriations bills provide the funding to execute the programs.
- Authorization levels are not binding on appropriations bills. Congress may, and usually does, appropriate funds above or below the authorized levels.



# Senate Appropriators

## **Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS)**

Chairman, Senate Appropriations  
Committee

## **Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO)**

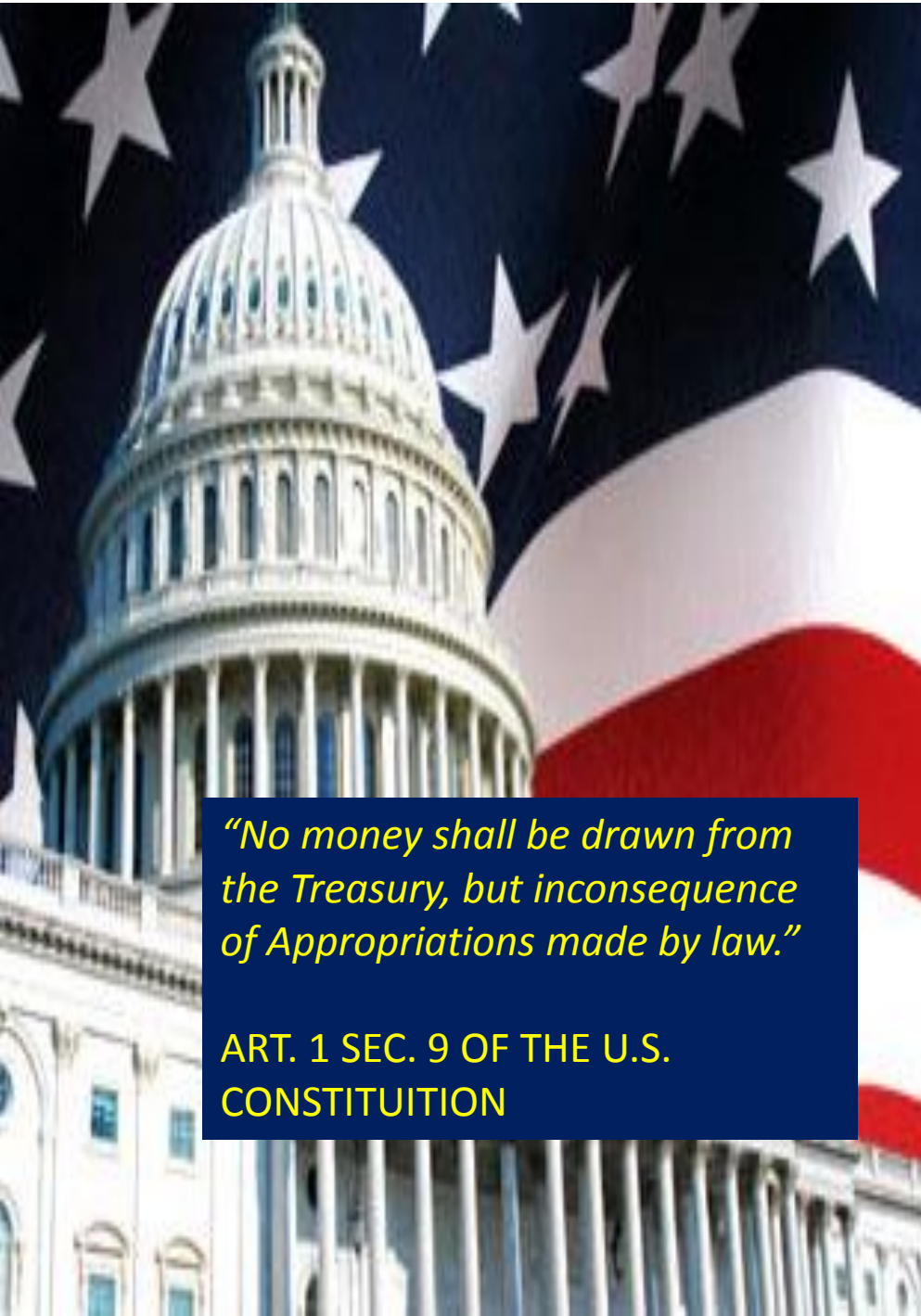
Chairman, Labor, HHS, Education  
Appropriations Subcommittee

## **Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT)**

Vice Chairman, Senate  
Appropriations Committee

## **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)**

Ranking Member, Senate, Labor,  
HHS, Education Appropriations  
Subcommittee



*"No money shall be drawn from  
the Treasury, but in consequence  
of Appropriations made by law."*

ART. 1 SEC. 9 OF THE U.S.  
CONSTITUTION

# House Appropriators

**Representative Rodney Frelinghuysen, (R-NJ),**  
Chairman House Appropriations Committee

**Representative Tom Cole**  
**(R-OK),** Chairman, Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee

**Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY),** Ranking Member,  
House Appropriations Committee

**Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT),** Ranking Member,  
Labor, HHS, Education Subcommittee

# Authorizers

## Senate Health, Education and Pensions Committee (HELP)

- Chairman Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN)
- Ranking Member – Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)



## House Committee on Education and the Workforce

- Chairwoman Virginia Foxx (R-NC)
- Ranking Member Bobby Scott (D-VA)





# Making a Good First Impression

# Keys to an Effective Capitol Hill Meeting

- ✓ Arrive on time and be patient if the member is running late or gets called away during the meeting.
- ✓ Tell the member of Congress that you are a member of Magnet Schools of America and that you're here to discuss magnet schools and why they are important to your district.
- ✓ Remember to be brief and to the point. The entire visit should not take longer than 20-30 minutes.

# Introduction Talking Points

**Magnet Schools of America (MSA)** is a nonprofit education association that represents approximately 4,340 magnet schools serving nearly 3.5 million students.

MSA was founded in 1986 and supports magnet school leaders and educators.



# **What is a Magnet School?**



# Magnet schools:

- Are administered by local public school districts.
- Have a specialized curriculum or theme.
- Attract students from different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Provide parents with choices for their child's education within the public school system.



### COMMON MAGNET THEMES<sup>3</sup>



STEM Related 30%



Visual, Performing Arts 16%



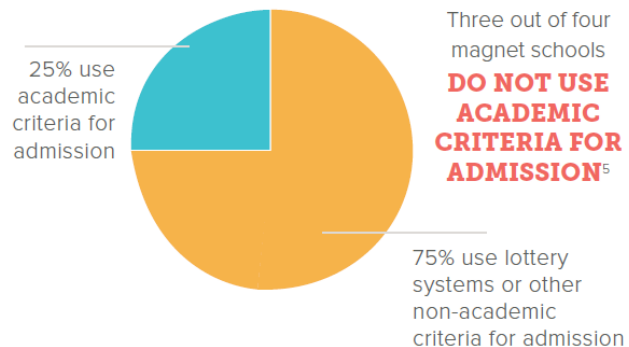
International Baccalaureate (IB) 12%



Gifted and Talented 8%



Foreign/World Languages 7%

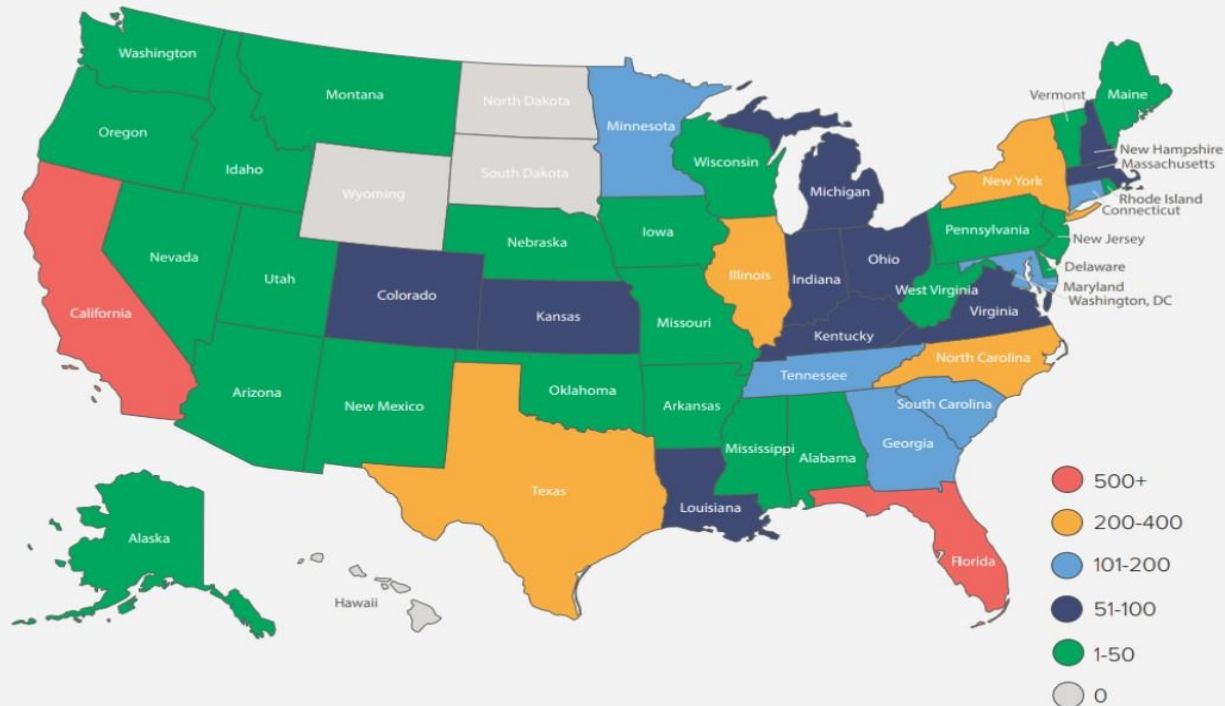


Magnet schools are the largest and original provider of public school choice, and demand continues to grow.<sup>4</sup>

### **MANY MAGNET SCHOOLS HAVE WAITING LISTS**

full of parents eager to get their students into these high-performing schools.<sup>5</sup>

## Number of Magnet Schools by State



**What is the  
difference  
between a  
Magnet and a  
Charter School?**



## How are magnet schools different than charter schools?

	Magnet Schools	Charter Schools
Part of the public school system?	Yes	Charters operate autonomously
Who operates and provides oversight?	Same district administration and school board as public schools	Varies: authorizers may include state or local school boards, local universities, nonprofit entities, or charter boards.
Adherence to state and local regulations	Must adhere to state and local rules	Laws often exempt charter schools
Can they be for-profit?	No	Yes
Cost	Free	Free

# What is the Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)?

The Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) provides five-year grants to public school districts to create, expand, or improve magnet schools.

It is the only federal education grant designed specifically to promote innovation and racial/ socioeconomic diversity in the classroom.

It currently is funded at **\$97.6 million** and typically supports 30-40 school districts.

# Preparing for the Meeting



# Keys to an Effective Capitol Hill Meeting

- ✓ Before the meeting, learn about your member of Congress, his/her priority issues, and the committee(s) on which he or she serves.
- ✓ Determine each person's role in the meeting and who will be the leader.
- ✓ Come prepared to discuss local statistics, facts, and success stories about your magnet schools.

# Preparation Exercise

1. Who is going to lead the meeting and introduce the group?
2. Who is going to lead the discussion about your magnet school(s)?
3. Who is going to drive home the magnet school talking points?
4. Who is going to research the background of your Senators/Representative?



# Making Your Case



## **Magnet Schools Promote - PUBLIC School Choice**

Magnet schools recognize that no student learns the same and that parents should have the option to send their child to a school that focuses on their strengths, engages them, and motivates them to learn.

# **Magnet Schools - Promote Diversity**

Research shows students learn better and are more prepared for the real world when they are exposed to students with different backgrounds.

Through school choice policies, outreach, and recruitment efforts magnet schools strive to have diverse student populations.

# Successful School Diversity Efforts

- Inter-district magnet programs in Hartford, Connecticut have successfully increased the number of students attending integrated schools from 11 percent to nearly 50 percent.
- According to a U.C.L.A. Civil Rights Project report, magnet schools in New York City have the highest proportion of multiracial student bodies and the lowest proportion of segregated schools compared to traditional and charter schools in the city.
- **What is your school diversity success story?**

# **Magnet Schools –**

## **Close the Achievement Gap and**

## **Promote Academic Excellence**

# Evidence of Academic Excellence

Numerous studies have shown that students at magnet schools perform better than their peers at traditional schools.

- According to the *U.S. News and World Report: High School Rankings*, magnet schools make up 25 percent of the top 100 high schools.
- Last year for the third year in a row, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced that magnet school students **significantly** outperformed their peers across the state, district, and in charter schools in Math and English/Language Arts assessments.

## How are magnet schools in your district improving academic achievement?

## Higher Graduation Rates –

Many studies have found that students attending magnet schools have higher graduation rates than students attending traditional public schools.

For example, a large scale study of magnet vs. non magnet students in Los Angeles found that magnet school students were 30% more likely to graduate than non-magnet school students.

## Parental Involvement –

A study of Jacksonville, Florida magnet schools found higher levels of parent and community involvement than traditional public schools.

## Student Engagement -

Multiple studies have found that magnet students are less likely to be absent or skip classes than non-magnet students.

# **Magnet Schools - Prepare Students for College and Careers**

## **Message –**

Through innovative curriculum and instruction, and community partnerships magnet schools provide students with the real-world skills they need to be workforce and college ready.

**How is your magnet school utilizing innovative theme based programming and community partners to prepare students for college and careers?**



## What are we asking for?

1. We request that Congress appropriate the authorized amount of **\$102.3 million** to the Magnet Schools Assistance Program in FY 2019.
2. Become a signatory to Congressman Joe Courtney's Dear Colleague Magnet School Appropriations Letter.



## Your Mission!

- Invite your members of Congress and their staff to tour your magnet school
- Adopt National Proclamation
- Make a floor or committee statement
- Express support on social media

## Follow-up

Be sure to send a thank you letter/email to the member of Congress and their staff.

Remember that you want to maintain a relationship with your elected official and their staff—so stay in contact, send periodic information and updates, and invite them to visit your school or program.

# Questions?

**John Laughner**

Legislative and Communications Manager

[john.laughner@magnet.edu](mailto:john.laughner@magnet.edu)

Magnet Schools of America

1909 K Street, NW Suite C-140

Washington, DC 20006

(202) 824-0672