

# Magnet Schools Program, 2007-08

## At-a-Glance

The Magnet Schools Program is a group of schools created as a result of a 1976 Desegregation Court Order. In 2007-2008, this group of schools consisted of 27 school sites: ten grades nine through 12 high schools (Arts, Humanities, Skyline CDC, Rangel, BMC, ESSM, Health, Law, Science, and TAG), 10 grades six through eight middle academies (Atwell, Dealey, DESA, Greiner, Holmes, Longfellow, Rangel, Spence, Stone, and Travis), and seven vanguard elementary schools (Darrell, Dealey, Lanier, Polk, Stone, Twain, and Travis). Of the seven elementary schools, two (Stone and Dealey) were Pre - Kindergarten through six Montessorri schools, and the remaining five were grades four and five sites. The program was designed to promote voluntary desegregation by offering unique curricula that could not be found in neighborhood schools. The evaluation resulted in these findings.

### Budget

The program's 2007-08 high schools' budget was \$27,619,644, an increase of 11% over last year's budget, while the academies' and vanguards' budget was \$16,587,419, an increase of 9% over last year's allocation.

### Student Demographics

Of the about 9,000 students enrolled in the program this year, 63.5% were enrolled in the magnet high schools, 28.6% in the academy middle schools, and 7.9% in the vanguard elementary schools.

Most of the student enrollees were Hispanics (54.7%), 31.2% were African Americans, 11.1% were Whites, 2.5% were Asian Americans, and 0.4% American Indians.

### Student Achievement

Overall, and with few exceptions, magnet high school, academy middle school, and vanguard elementary school students out performed district students at all grade levels and in all subject areas (reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies) on the spring 2008 TAKS test.

The commended ratings for the TAKS are displayed in Table 1. The Commended ratings for magnet program students were higher than district students across all grade levels and subtests.

Table 1

Percent Magnet Program and All District Students with Commended Performance on the TAKS Test, 2008

Student Group	Read	Writin g	Math	Scienc e	Social Studies
Grade 4					
Magnet	32.1	39.1	34.8	-	-
District	14.2	20.8	23.6	-	-
Grade 5					
Magnet	38.3	-	51.5	41.8	-
District	16.2	-	-	24.4	-
Grade 6					
Magnet	49.7	33.7	44.4	-	-
District	32.8	19.7	30.2	-	-
Grade 7					
Magnet	31.7	-	18.8	-	-
District	18.5	-	10.7	-	-
Grade 8					
Magnet	55.4	-	24.3	22.2	44.3
District	36.3	-	13.7	10.8	26.2
Grade 9					
Magnet	25.6	-	13.3	33.3	33.3
District	18.1	-	9.3	7.7	15.4
Grade 10					
Magnet	12.9	-	9.5	7.1	28.7
District	9.7	-	9.2	6.1	21.6
Grade 11					
Magnet	15.5	-	17.3	7.0	33.8
District	12.4	-	15.1	6.3	26.6

### Additional Evaluation Findings

In the past, principals reported to one area superintendent. However, principal reporting was decentralized this year. Principals reported to the executive directors of the Learning Communities where their schools were located.

As of 2007-08, Irma Rangel Girls School had grades six through 11. Also, the school continued to operate with only one TEA number.

### Program's AEIS Ratings

Except in 2006-07 and 2007-08 when the program at Jackson was closed and in 2005-06 when Darrell was not part of the magnet program and

Holmes was rated Unacceptable, all the magnet schools generally did well on the AEIS ratings from 2005-06 to 2007-08. Fourteen schools were rated exemplary, five were recognized, and seven acceptable. These ratings are displayed in Table 2 by year, school. type, and school.

Table-2

Magnet Schools Program AEIS Ratings, 2007-08

Schools	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
High Schools			
Booker T W (Arts)	R	R	R
Bus Mgmt Center	R	R	E
Educ & Soc Serv	R	A	E
Govt. & Law	R	R	E
Health	R	E	E
Rangel (6-11)	R	E	E
Lincoln magnet*	A	A	A
Science & Engr	E	E	E
Skyline CDC*	A	A	A
TAG	E	E	E
Academy Middle Schools			
Atwell Academy*	R	A	A
DESA	R	R	E
Dealey	R	E	E
Greiner Academy*	R	R	R
Holmes Academy*	U	A	A
Longfellow	R	R	R
Rangel (6-11)	R	E	E
Spence Academy*	A	A	A
Stone Mont Acad	R	R	R
Travis Academy	E	E	E
Vanguard Elementary Schools			
Dealey Mnt vangrd	R	R	E
Lanier vangrd*	R	R	E
M Jackson vangrd	A	Closed	Closed
Darrell vangrd	-	R	R
Polk vangrd*	A	R	A
Stone mnt vangrd	R	R	E
Travis vangrd	E	E	E
Twain vangrd*	A	A	A

Note: \* indicates a magnet school within a school and the rating is for the entire school. Although Rangel (6-11) is listed as a high school and as an academy, both program components share the same rating. A, E, R, and U mean acceptable, exemplary, recognized, and unacceptable, respectively.

### Recommendation

Currently, Irma Rangel Girls high school has only one TEA number assigned to it. It is recommended that the district's administration should evaluate each of the Irma Rangel Girls Magnet program components (middle school academy [grades six through eight] and the high school [grades nine through 12], and strongly consider requesting from TEA two TEA numbers for each of the program components as is the case with other program schools. At Travis, for example, there are two TEA numbers assigned to the school, one to the Travis academy and the other to the vanguard. At Lincoln high school, one TEA number was assigned to the

school and another to the Humanities component of the magnet program at the school.