The Magnet Schools Program is a group of schools created as a result of a 1976 federal court desegregation order. In 2008-2009, this group of schools consisted of 27 school sites: 10 high schools (grades 9 through 12), 10 middle academies (grades 6 through 8), and 7 vanguard elementary schools (5 sites with grades 4 and 5, and 2 Montessori schools (pre-kindergarten through 6). 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.

### Student Demographics

#### Enrollment

Of the 8,916 students enrolled in the Magnet Schools Program, 5,728 (64.2%) were in the magnet high schools, 2,535 (28.4%) were enrolled in the academies, and 653 (7.3%) were in the vanguard elementary schools. The largest number (2,173) of magnet program students attended classes at Skyline CDC Magnet, while the smallest number (39) attended classes at Lanier Vanguard.

#### Gender

The majority of the 8,916 students were females (60.3%). The majority of students at each level, (magnet, high school, academy middle school, and vanguard elementary school, were also females. The only schools with a greater number of males than females were Science Magnet, Dallas Environmental Science Academy, Spence Academies, and Stone Vanguard.

#### Ethnicity

Most of the 8,916 students who attended the Magnet Schools Program were Hispanics (55.8%), followed by African Americans (30.0%), Whites (11.3%), Asian Americans (2.5%), and American Indians (0.4%). Hispanics are under represented and Whites are over represented.

#### Budget

From 2005-06 to 2008-09, the program showed a budget increase of $6,449,338 (13.9%). Of the $46,515,708 budgeted for the program in 2008-09, $28,841,262 was budgeted for the magnet high schools and $17,674,446 for the academy middle and vanguard elementary schools. Of the total budget, 62.0% was spent on the high schools and 38.0% on the academy middle and vanguard elementary schools.

### Administrative Changes After Commitments and Covenants

Administrative changes implemented after fulfilling the three-year Commitments and Covenants included: 1) decentralization of administrative oversight, 2) closure of M. Jackson Vanguard, 3) Darrell Elementary opened as a Vanguard, 4) magnet principals reported to Learning Communities’ executive directors, 5) addition of one grade per year to Irma Rangel Young Women’s Leadership School until the school spanned grades 6-12 (grade 12 students were admitted at the beginning of 2008-09 school year), and 6) grade 6 moved from the vanguards to the academies, except at Montessori schools.

### Achievement Outcomes of Magnet Students

#### TAKS

Overall, magnet, academy, and vanguard students outperformed district students at all grade levels and in all subject areas (reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies) on the TAKS tests.

#### TAKS Commended Performance

Commended ratings for magnet, academy, and vanguard students on the TAKS test were higher than district students across all grade levels and subtests.

#### AEIS

From 2006-07 to 2008-09, all schools in the magnet program received favorable AEIS ratings. The number of schools with exemplary rating increased from 8 in 2006-07 to 17 in 2008-09.

### Recommendation

Currently, Irma Rangel girls school has only one state identification number assigned. It is recommended that the district evaluate each of the Rangel program components (academy and high school), and strongly consider requesting two TEA numbers, one for each of the program components.

Because of the under representation of Hispanic students in the Magnet Program, it is recommended that the district investigate possible barriers to the admission process.

For additional information, see EA09-140-2, available at [www.dallasisd.org/inside/disd/depts/evalacct/](http://www.dallasisd.org/inside/disd/depts/evalacct/), or contact Dr. Tabiri Tabasuri at 972-925-6475.