

Los Angeles Unified School District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PARENTS/GUARDIANS TO RECEIVE 2010-2011 MAGNET/PERMITS WITH
TRANSPORTATION/NCLB PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE BROCHURES BY MAIL**

The Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) announced today that the annual application period to enroll students in traveling programs in the LAUSD for the 2010-2011 school year will begin **November 6** and continue through **Friday, December 18, 2009**. This deadline is three weeks earlier than it has been in past years.

Since 1977, Magnets and Permits With Transportation (PWT) have been the District's two main options for students seeking integrated educational experiences. The programs grew out of a California Supreme Court order in 1976, which required the LAUSD to take steps to "alleviate the harms of racial isolation."

There are 173 LAUSD Magnet schools and centers. Magnet school specialties range from math/science/technology and architecture/digital arts to the performing arts, humanities, medical/biological or environmental sciences, music, law/police studies and others, including programs for gifted/high ability and highly gifted students.

Permits With Transportation (PWT), which provides school bus transportation, offers another opportunity for voluntary integration. Students applying from a specific "sending" school area in the LAUSD may be assigned by the District for integration purposes to a specific "receiving" school with available classroom space. School assignments are determined using the criteria of classroom space, integration requirements and transportation patterns.

Federal legislation in the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001* requires all school districts in the nation to provide Public School Choice (PSC) as one of the educational options available for parents of students attending program improvement schools. NCLB-PSC offers students enrolled in a school identified as At-Risk for Program Improvement (PI) or a PI school listed in the CHOICES brochure an opportunity to attend a non-PI school. District-paid transportation is provided for students participating in the NCLB-PSC program.

District officials said the excellent reputation earned by the Magnet program over the past 33 years brings in as many as 65,000 applications for an estimated 16,000 openings each year. The LAUSD court-ordered voluntary integration program is the largest such effort in the nation, with more than 56,800 students currently enrolled in Magnet programs and another 1,800 in PWT.

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Full information about the District's court-ordered voluntary integration programs Magnet and PWT, and the federally mandated NCLB-PSC Program, can be found in the CHOICES 2010-2011 brochure.

The booklet also contains an application for these programs and a pre-addressed return envelope. The personalized brochures are scheduled to be mailed to parents or guardians of all kindergarten through 11th grade students currently enrolled in LAUSD schools during the second week in November.

The CHOICES brochure is mailed directly to parents/guardians at home to help assure receipt. The application on page 17 in each brochure is pre-printed with personalized information for each student (name, address, birth date, etc.). To be considered "on time," the CHOICES application must be returned postmarked on or before **Friday, December 18, 2009** to the Student Integration Services office. This date is three weeks earlier than it has been in years past.

Separate CHOICES booklets are printed in English and Spanish ("Opciones"). The home language survey identified in the local school's computer determines whether the English or Spanish version is mailed. As in the past, translations also will be available in several other languages: Armenian, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Farsi, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Parents/guardians who speak any of these languages will receive English language brochures in the mail, but they may also request a copy of the translation in their home language from their local school.

Blank application brochures are available at local schools and offices, as well as Los Angeles City Public Libraries, by the third week of November for parents/guardians who did not receive the CHOICES brochure in the mail, or who live within District boundaries but whose children are not enrolled in LAUSD schools.

The mid-December deadline gives parents/guardians and students time to review available options before schools close for the winter break while enabling the District to notify parents/guardians by mid-April about their child's acceptance or waiting list status.

Application procedures for Magnets, the PWT program and the NCLB-PSC program are fully explained in the new brochure. Students presently enrolled in Magnets do not need to reapply unless they want to change to a different program or wish to request a Magnet at the next school level. Current PWT participants do not need to reapply and may continue from elementary to middle to senior high provided that space continues to be available. Participating NCLB-PSC students need not reapply. NCLB-PSC matriculants will be given two non-PI options for the next school level. These processes and procedures are different from the "open enrollment" process, which has its own application period in the month of May.

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Based upon information listed below, a computer process determines the appropriate number of “priority points” for Magnet applicants who/whose:

- Have completed the last grade level (5th/6th or 8th) in Magnet programs that end at those levels and who apply for 6th/7th or 9th grade admission into another Magnet program. These students receive matriculation points.
- Resident school is designated as “PHBAO” – Predominantly Hispanic, Black, Asian or Other Non-Anglo school by the District.
- Resident school is designated by the District as “overcrowded.”
- Are/were on an official waiting list for 2009-2010, 2008-2009, and 2007-2008.
- Has a sibling continuing in the same Magnet school that the applicant wishes to attend.

Students whose names have been on an on-time waiting list still must reapply each year.

Appropriate priority points will be assigned.

At full Magnet schools, all students at the site are enrolled in the Magnet program. However, Magnet centers are located on the campuses of regular schools. Magnet center students may take some classes in the host school and Magnet students can participate in all school activities.

In addition to emphasizing a particular subject area specialty or a teaching approach such as the alternative and gifted/high ability programs, all Magnet programs provide students with basic academic skills. The brochure lists the Magnets by specialty and grade level, making it easy to identify similar programs.

The only programs where applicants must meet specific criteria for selection are those Magnets designated for gifted/high ability and highly gifted students.

Magnet programs are usually designed for elementary, middle and high school students, but some serve a combination of elementary and secondary grades on the same campus, such as the Los Angeles and Sherman Oaks Centers for Enriched Studies, Valley Alternative and 32nd Street/USC Magnet’s K-8 program.

The District’s Transportation Branch develops school bus routes for the Magnet, PWT and NCLB-PSC programs so that students do not ride more than 90 minutes one-way, although due to traffic, some rides may exceed 90 minutes. District-paid transportation is provided for elementary (K-5) applicants if they reside outside a two-mile radius or outside the Magnet school attendance boundary, whichever is farther. The eligibility distance for secondary students (grades 6-12) is extended to three miles.

Transportation mailers containing school bus pick-up and drop-off information will be mailed to students who participate in traveling programs in late August 2010 for schools beginning in September or late June for any year-round school tracks that start in July.

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A 30-minute television program "Choices 2010," featuring some of the District's Magnet schools and centers, and information about PWT and NCLB-PSC, will be broadcast numerous times in English and Spanish between November 8 and December 18 on the District's television station, KLCS-TV. The schedule is listed on the back cover of the "Choices" brochure. Parents/guardians should also watch for information in local newspapers and on radio and television stations.

Parents/guardians can also visit the eCHOICES website for further information. The goal of this website, <http://eChoices.lausd.net>, is to better familiarize parents with the three program options available through the CHOICES Brochure (Magnet, PWT and NCLB-PSC). In addition to all of the information contained in the brochure, eChoices includes access to transportation information, maps, a school selection tool, and a step-by-step tutorial on how to fill out the CHOICES application. Again, the site can be found by visiting [http:// eChoices.lausd.net](http://eChoices.lausd.net).

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Special reminder for parents/guardians: Applications must be received or postmarked by the deadline date, December 18, 2009. During January, parents/guardians can expect to receive a letter from Student Integration Services to confirm receipt of the application. The letter will also indicate the number of priority points assigned to the application. In addition, the letter will notify parents/guardians of any information that is missing or incorrect on the application and ask parents/guardians to submit the correct information by the date requested. This letter will not indicate the student's acceptance into a program. A Gifted/Highly Gifted/High Ability Magnet eligibility letter will be sent in February and Magnet and NCLB-PSC notification letters will be sent in April. PWT letters will be sent by the end of May 2010.

Please refer questions regarding:

- Magnet Program - (213) 241-4177
- PWT Program - (213) 241-6572
- NCLB-PSC Program - (213) 241-6572