

**PARTICIPATION IN MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

The Ledyard Board of Education understands the value that magnet schools provide toward the goal of improving the educational experience of all children in Connecticut. Magnet schools are popular because they provide a more focused curriculum and diverse student population since they draw students from many school districts.

The decision to attend an out-of-district magnet school is a personal choice to be made by the student and his/her parents or guardians. In making that decision, students and their parents/ guardians should carefully review the specific magnet school program offerings and historical records of academic achievement. It is also recommended that they talk with other students, and their parents or guardians, who are attending or have attended the magnet school to better understand the actual educational experience to be gained from the magnet school.

The Board's responsibility and authority for Ledyard students attending out-of-district magnet schools is limited to providing tuition, within the limits discussed in this policy, and funding for special education services.

The Board is not required to provide transportation for Ledyard residents who choose to attend inter-district magnet schools. The decision whether to provide such transportation shall be made each year by June 1st for the following school year so that students and their parents/guardians have adequate time to make other arrangements if the Board is not providing transportation.

The Board will not participate in the State Department of Education's program whereby parents can receive funds for transporting their children to/from magnet schools since such participation would make the District legally liable for events occurring when the parents are transporting their children.

**Limits on Student Attendance in Out-of-District Magnet Schools**

The Board is required to provide opportunities for Ledyard students to attend out-of-district magnet schools in a number that is at least equal to the number specified in any written agreement with an inter-district magnet school operator or in a number that is at least equal to the average number of students from Ledyard that have been enrolled in the magnet school during the previous three school years.

Currently, the only magnet school with which the Board has a written agreement regarding attendance levels is the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS) in New London. The Board has agreed to provide tuition for 20 students in grades K-5. RMMS currently allows additional students from Ledyard to attend tuition free, but that policy is subject to change at the discretion of the RMMS administration.

**References:**

Connecticut General Statutes:

Sec. 10-220d. Student recruitment by regional and inter-district specialized schools and programs. Recruitment of athletes prohibited.

Sec. 10-264l. Grants for the operation of inter-district magnet school programs. Transportation. Special education. Tuition. Subsections (h), (j), (k), (l), and (m).