

Project Abstract

Independent School District 196 (MN) requests funding for Project STEMInspired under the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to support the increase of racial integration and socioeconomic diversity of Echo Park Elementary School of Leadership, Engineering and Technology (593 students) and Oak Ridge Elementary School of Leadership, Environmental and Health Sciences (495 students). Both school communities will engage in rigorous and focused STEM curriculum, which will include: field experiences to work directly with STEM professionals, outdoor learning investigations and innovative lab spaces for students to collaborate and creatively design and prototype their ideas. Project STEMInspired will develop highly functioning teams who implement a research-based, capacity-building MTSS model, integrate the magnet theme across the school day and grow parent and community partnerships.

This proposal anticipates achievement in the following project goals and objectives: Goal 1: Reduce minority group isolation of Black students. Objective 1: Build capacity in evidence-based strategies to eliminate, reduce, or prevent minority group isolation in the targeted schools without negatively impacting feeder schools. Goal 2: Build capacity in evidence-based strategies to improve student achievement in reading, math and science for every student subgroup. Objective 2: To design and develop innovative educational methods and practices that promote diversity, increase choice and ensure students gain 21st century skills. Objective 3: To provide professional development for magnet school teachers related to implementing high-quality educational programs, increasing achievement for all students, improving instructional practices, and ensuring program sustainability. Objective 4: To ensure parents and community members are actively involved in project planning, implementation, and decision-making. Objective 5: To increase percentages of all magnet students, including those from major racial and ethnic subgroups, who meet state proficiency targets in reading/language arts, mathematics and science.