

Abstract

Within the New York City Department of Education, a consortium comprising Community School Districts 21 and 22 in the borough of Brooklyn is requesting a total three-year grant in the amount of \$11,550,000 from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to convert five schools (four elementary schools and one middle school) into whole-school magnet programs. All five schools are experiencing high degrees of minority group isolation of Hispanic and/or African American students, ranging from a low of 15 percentage points above the district-wide average to a high of 50.4 percentage points above the district-wide average at the same educational level. Collectively, the five schools serve a total of 2,601 students in grades pre-K–8.

The D21-22 magnet program will provide each student in the five magnet schools with a rigorous educational experience that:

- stems from a content-based theme that is unique to and draws on the strengths of the individual school communities (PS 198 - Applied Learning in Arts and Engineering, PS 245 - Art and Science, IS 240 – STEM, PS 90 - Environmental Science and Community Wellness, and PS 121 - Applied Life Sciences);
- promotes the development, implementation, and refinement of interdisciplinary thematic curricula mapped to city, state, and national standards;
- embeds into teaching and learning research- and evidence-based instructional strategies that have been shown to promote high levels of student achievement and the attainment of noncognitive skills critical to students' college and career readiness (e.g., project-based learning, cultural competency); and
- demonstrates the effective use of state-of-the-art technology to connect students to each other as well as to peers and mentors around the globe.