

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is the second largest district in California, serving more than 130,000 students in pre-school through grade 12. The student population is extremely diverse, representing more than 15 ethnic groups and more than 60 languages and dialects. To prepare students for the competitive global economy they will face in the years ahead, the San Diego Unified Board of Education has developed a focused, long-term plan, known as *Vision 2020*, to improve academic achievement for all students.

SDUSD has earned high marks from the Brookings Institution as having one of the best school-choice systems in the country. Within its portfolio of choice, SDUSD has a rich, 40-year history of developing and sustaining Magnet schools. Its network of 26 whole-school Magnet programs serves as the cornerstone of the District's desegregation efforts. To support recruitment of students from different socio-economic, ethnic, and racial backgrounds into magnet schools, SDUSD is implementing a strategic plan to develop full, theme-based Magnet articulation pathways in varied geographic locations throughout the district.

In its 2016 MSAP application, *Designing a STEAM Pathway in the SDUSD*, SDUSD is requesting \$10,317,717 over three years to strengthen its Magnet articulation pathways by developing three new STEAM Magnets. The three sites - Carson and Linda Vista at the elementary level (projected to serve 544 and 543 students, respectively) and Montgomery at the middle level (projected to serve 538 students) – will create a STEAM pathway to the Kearny High Complex STEAM Magnet School. The sites are located in the Linda Vista community, one of San Diego's most diverse areas, with over 21 languages spoken. However, this diversity is not fully reflected in the student body at the three proposed magnet sites. All three experience minority group isolation (MGI) among Hispanic students, as well as socio-economic isolation. SDUSD will utilize a systemic approach beyond targeted recruitment through its weighted lottery process to draw added racial-ethnic diversity and increase the socio-economic diversity at these schools (responding to the MSAP Invitational Priority for SES Integration).

Designing a STEAM Pathway in the SDUSD will accomplish the following objectives: (1) Promote voluntary desegregation in public schools by reducing MGI in two elementary and one middle school with substantial proportions of Hispanic students; (2) Increase academic achievement among all students in each MSAP site by developing and implementing quality STEAM-based instruction and integration strategies in each classroom; (3) Advance systemic reforms at each MSAP site through a rigorous and sustained professional development initiative; and (4) Increase parental and community engagement in and satisfaction with the three STEAM schools.

SDUSD will achieve these objectives through the creation of a student-centered, inquiry-based STEAM curriculum, developed from a foundation of constructivist theory. Emphasis will be placed on increasing interaction among students of different backgrounds through the development of dialogic learning environments that move students from tolerance of differing perspectives to truly respecting, valuing, and learning from that difference. Support for SDUSD's STEAM Magnet mission will come from a wide range of industry, higher education, and community partners (addressing CPP 4), including but not limited to the University of San Diego, World Savvy, 3R's Robotics, TreObytes, Art Reach, and Good Neighbor Gardens.