

Applicant PR Award # **School District of Lee County**
U165A170028

School District City, State Urbanicity **School District of Lee County**
Fort Myers, Florida
Urban

Project Title/Name Increasing Diversity and Achievement through Rigorous and Engaging (I-DARE) Programs Project

Contact Title **Terri Kinsey**
Grants Coordinator

Phone 239-335-1434
Fax 239-337-8594
Email terrimk@leeschools.net

Grant Award Amount **Total: \$ 10,354,349.00** over 5 years

- Year 1 \$ 2,234,043.00
- Year 2 \$ 2,497,055.00
- Year 3 \$ 2,047,139.00
- Year 4 \$ 1,866,270.00
- Year 5 \$ 1,709,842.00

School and Grades Served	Theme	Isolated and Targeted Minority/ies	Number of Students
Harns Marsh Middle School (6-8)	Arts	Minority Groups	1,138
Lehigh Acres Middle School (6-8)	STEAM	Minority Groups	1,198
Oak Hammock Middle School (6-8)	Arts	Minority Groups	1,332

Project Description:

The Increasing Diversity and Achievement through Rigorous and Engaging (I-DARE) Programs Project will support three middle schools in Lee County to create appealing and challenging magnet programs and attract diverse students. The project goal is to create high performing diverse students within each magnet school and allow these programs to thrive after the project period ends. The I-DARE project addresses the four competitive preference priorities. The first priority, need for instance, is addressed through budget shortfall data at the federal,

local, and state levels as well as the steady population growth that Lee experiences each year with an additional 1,500 – 2,000 students enrolled. Priority 2, new or revised magnet schools, is addressed by placing magnets in schools not previously benefiting from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program. Priority 3, student selection, is addressed by selecting students through a lottery process. Finally Priority 4, increased integration and socioeconomic diversity, is measured through the student assignment plan and through performance measures in the project.

Harns Marsh Middle will adopt the Cambridge AICE (Advanced International Certificate of Education) program to provide an international curriculum that is globally recognized along with enhancing its Arts program to ignite creativity in its 1,138 students. The Harns Marsh plan is to provide extended enrichment by offering Cambridge-based learning and arts performance and project-based opportunities after school in addition to the school day. The extended learning will culminate in a dinner and musical theater event performed by Harns Marsh students and shared with friends, family, and the community. Lehigh Acres Middle will implement the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) theme to provide students with meaningful and engaging coursework that will enhance left and right brain learning. Lehigh Acres will take advantage of key partnerships it has made with local organizations and the local institution of higher education to provide outreach to extend the classroom for its 1,198 students to STEAM field experiences. Oak Hammock Middle will enhance its academic program through Arts integration, in order to attract students of diverse populations. Oak Hammock staff is committed to integrating the Arts into every classroom on campus for its 1,332 students. Oak Hammock's plan for sustainability will be to grow its Student Arts Showcase, garner sponsors, and use this as a fundraiser to continue supporting the Arts at Oak Hammock.

Project Goals

1. Minority group and socioeconomic isolation will be reduced at the proposed magnet schools.
2. All students will receive high quality instruction that includes their school's systemic reforms and magnet themes in units and courses aligned with Florida Standards.
3. All students, at each magnet school, will receive magnet theme instruction.
4. Student academic achievement will increase each year in English/Language Arts, mathematics, and science for all students.
5. The percentage of students from major ethnic and racial subgroups attaining level 3 or 4 on the state assessments will increase.
6. Staff will receive professional development related to improvement of curriculum, instruction and magnet theme development and implementation.

7 All students will have equitable access to high quality education.

8. There will be an increase in parent participation at each magnet school.