

Integrated Career and Academic Networks (*iCAN*) Abstract

The School Board of Broward County, FL, is the sixth largest school system in the United States serving over 271,000 K-12 students. The District has a diverse student population, with students representing 208 different countries and speaking 181 different languages. The District proposes *iCAN*, a secondary program structured as a whole-school magnet that addresses what parents and students are looking for, a “personalized learning environment” that changes the traditional school environment, addresses the social-emotional needs of students, and prepares them for the future through integrated college and career networks. The *iCAN* proposal includes creating a magnet program at Olsen Middle School and significantly revising their magnet feeder high school, South Broward High School. In addition, two other magnet middle schools, New River Middle, Pompano Middle School and their magnet feeder high schools, Blanche Ely High School, and Stranahan High School will be significantly revised around the concepts and components of a personalized learning environment, targeted to prepare students for college and careers of the 21st century. In transitioning to a whole school magnet, over 7,000 additional students will have opportunity to participate in the *iCAN* magnet at the schools. In addition, there are over 2,000 additional seats available for students from beyond the school boundaries. The *iCAN* magnet will attract an applicant pool reflecting a diverse student population at each school and expand choice options to students of different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds to reduce minority group isolation. Students will participate in project-based and blended learning, while developing work place and technology skills, with support from design experts such as “Big Picture Learning”, a non-profit organization that has a proven track record in assisting students and schools based upon individual needs and structures. All students will have the opportunity to work collaboratively in a new Exploratorium workspace where they will work on developing highly effective soft skills, and will be mentored by network advisors representing local businesses, community organizations, post-secondary institutions, teachers, students, and parents.