

ABSTRACT

The *Science Technology and Arts Exploration & Innovation Project (STArts Project)* is a five-year initiative designed to prevent minority group isolation and to improve academic achievement by providing innovative and interest-based STEAM public-school choice for students and their families. Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has identified five objectives for the *STArts Project* schools project:

1. Reduce minority and socioeconomic isolation in all *STArts Project* schools;
2. Implement innovative STEAM curricula specific to the magnet themes in each *STArts Project* magnet program;
3. Increase capacity of core and magnet content teachers in *STArts Project* magnet programs to deliver innovative theme-based curriculum and promote cultural competency using specific instructional strategies;
4. Increase percentage of magnet students, including those from major ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic subgroups, who achieve proficiency and learning gains on statewide/standardized assessments in the *STArts Project* magnet programs; and
5. Ensure participation of all stakeholders (community members, parents, students, faculty, and project partners) in making decisions which affect instruction and the delivery of the *STArts Project* program project objectives.

All students, both boundary and magnet applicants, at the proposed *STArts Project* schools will participate in the magnet programs without distinction. Each school will implement similar STEAM programs in Space, Sea, Land, and Arts Exploration and Innovation. Frances S. Tucker K-8 will integrate Dance and Movement art content, and Hubert O. Sibley will integrate Visual Arts art content. Instructional programs at the *STArts Project* schools feature innovative educational methods and practices that address student needs and interests, and are designed to improve academic achievement for all students. Key features include: *Computer Supported Collaborative Learning (CSCL)* which incorporates high-yield problem-solving strategies such as, *Inquiry-Based, Problem-Based, and Design Thinking*. These instructional methods engage students in acquiring knowledge and critical thinking skills through collaborative problem solving and through extended inquiry processes structured around carefully designed tasks. Additionally, *STArts Project* students will participate in place-based authentic learning opportunities at partner sites to explore topics within real-world contexts with a focus on preparing them for high school, college, and a career through community, industry, and higher education partnerships.

School Name	Programs/Themes(s)	Max Participants
Frances S. Tucker K-8	Space, Sea, Land, and Arts (Dance & Movement) Exploration & Innovation	504
Hubert O. Sibley K-8	Space, Sea, Land, and Arts (Visual Arts) Exploration & Innovation	965