The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) is the second largest district in California, serving more than 102,000 students in pre-school through grade 12. The student population is extremely diverse, representing more than 15 ethnic groups and 60 languages and dialects. To prepare students for a competitive global economy, the SDUSD Board of Education developed a focused, long-term plan, known as Vision 2020, to improve academic achievement for all students.

Within its portfolio of choice, SDUSD has a rich, 40-year history of developing and sustaining Magnet schools. Its network of 28 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 has developed its 2020 MSAP application, Amplifying the Arts in the San Diego Unified School District. SDUSD is requesting a grant from MSAP to significantly revise four existing Magnet schools currently in corrective action and reduce or prevent Hispanic student minority group isolation (MGI) and socio-economic (SES) isolation in all four sites.

Freese will significantly revise to become Freese Arts and Culture Museum Magnet to build the alignment of arts and culture, interdisciplinary project-based learning (PBL), and learning through the arts with support from the Mingei Museum. By 2025, Freese will increase its enrollment to 375 students in grades TK-5 and reduce Hispanic student MGI. Webster, which is located in a QOZ (CPP5), will significantly revise to become the Webster Academy of Science and the Arts through development of STEAM with support from SDUSD’s STEAM Initiative and the University of California, San Diego CREATE project. By 2025, Webster will increase its enrollment to 312 students in grades K-5 and reduce Hispanic student MGI. Creative Performing and Media Arts (CPMA) Magnet will significantly revise its arts program by revising all VAPA courses for standards-based instruction, assessment, and vertical articulation, and applying a framework for arts integration to the development of integrated PBL with the support of the California Global Education Project. By 2025, CPMA will increase its enrollment to 1,006 students in grades 6-8 and reduce Hispanic student MGI. The San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts (SDSCPA) Magnet (6-12) will significantly revise its arts program through achievement of National Accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Precollegiate Arts Schools. SDSCPA will revise all VAPA courses and assessments for standards-based alignment, develop vertical articulation, and build arts integration in non-VAPA courses. By 2025, SDSCPA will increase its enrollment to 1,516 students and prevent Hispanic student MGI.

The SDUSD MSAP initiative will accomplish the following objectives: (1) Promote voluntary desegregation in public schools by reducing MGI in two elementary and one secondary school and preventing MGI in one secondary school with substantial proportions of Hispanic students; (2) Increase academic achievement among all students by developing and implementing quality standards-aligned VAPA and interdisciplinary Arts or STEAM instruction; (3) Advance systemic reforms through a rigorous and sustained professional development initiative; and (4) Increase parental and community engagement in and satisfaction with the four schools. As articulated in CPP2 and the Logic Model, two evidence-based curricular supports, ST Math and West Ed’s RAAL curriculum, will serve as key strategies for improving student learning outcomes.