

PROJECT SYNERGY**ABSTRACT**

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) is pleased to submit this proposal to the U.S. Department of Education's Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) for the 2022-27 funding cycle. District goals for the grant include **reducing** minority group isolation among Black students, increasing student achievement, and building district and school capacity to offer broader educational choice and high quality, integrated learning environments to all students. MSAP funding will support WCPSS efforts to establish four whole-school magnet programs: adding two new programs and significantly revising two existing magnet programs. **Centennial Magnet Middle** (at least 540 students impacted per year) will significantly revise its existing University Connections & Leadership Magnet theme to become the first and only **Center for Innovation** in WCPSS, where students will use design thinking to spark innovative ideas and creative problem-solving. **Wake Forest Elementary** (at least 345 students impacted per year) will establish a new *i*STEM program where students will engage in discovery to solve emergent problems. **Wildwood Forest Elementary** (at least 580 students impacted per year) will establish a new **Academy of Arts & Design** program and **East Millbrook Magnet Middle** (at least 765 students impacted per year) will significantly revise the existing Academy of Visual & Performing Arts to also become an **Academy of Arts & Design** where students will move through iterations of prototyping and testing, making their thinking visible through imaginative problem solving. Each MSAP project school will apply evidence-based literacy strategies to increase the achievement of students and close achievement gaps, create new thematic curriculum units and expand opportunities to engage families and develop strong partnerships.