

Abstract

The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCS) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is requesting MSAP funding to support the *Future Ready Magnet Schools* project consisting of significant revisions at four existing magnet schools and the development of one new magnet school. All CRCS magnet schools, current and proposed, are whole-school programs. **Cedar River Academy**, a K-5th grade elementary school, will significantly revise the existing theme of sustainability by adding Museum Studies and will serve an average of 340 students each year. **Johnson STEAM Academy**, a K-5th grade elementary school, will significantly revise the existing theme of STEAM by adding an enhanced focus on the arts and will serve an average of 400 students each year. **Roosevelt Creative Corridor Business Academy**, a 6th-8th grade middle school, will significantly revise the existing theme of business by adding an enhanced focus on leadership through the adoption of *Leader in Me* and will serve an average of 595 students each year. **McKinley STEAM Academy**, a 6th-8th grade middle school, will significantly revise the existing theme of STEAM by adding a medical sciences pathway and an enhanced focus on the arts. McKinley will serve an average of 545 students each year. The **Community Magnet High School (CMHS)**, a 9th-10th grade school, will be created to complete a CRCS K-12 magnet pipeline with the theme of community. The community-based approach will utilize the experience and strengths students will bring having attended other CRCS magnet schools in the areas of sustainability, STEAM, and business. Upon completing CMHS, students will have the opportunity to continue their community-based, personalized education at Iowa BIG, an existing CRCS program serving 11th-12th grade students.

Future Ready Magnet Schools has identified the following four project objectives: (1) To achieve voluntary desegregation and create socioeconomic diversity, *Future Ready Magnet Schools* will prevent MGI and reduce socioeconomic isolation; (2) To increase academic achievement, *Future Ready Magnet Schools* will increase ELA and Math achievement for all students as well as reduce racial and ethnic group gaps; (3) To sustain systemic reforms, *Future Ready Magnet Schools* will build capacity to implement research-based innovative educational methods and practices; (4) To improve the climate of inclusion, *Future Ready Magnet Schools* will increase student, family, and staff sense of belonging.

A project evaluation team will assess, monitor, and evaluate the impacts of the CRCS *Future Ready Magnet Schools* ' project activities using design-based research methods that are directly linked to the activities and outcomes of the project as specified in a project logic model. Within the context of the research study, outcome factors will be considered as individual performance measures for reporting as well as the relationships among the different factors. To inform the research study and ongoing monitoring of the performance measures, the evaluation team will create quantitative and qualitative datasets that will include individual and aggregate information about performance measures over time.

Over the past 15 years, CRCS has endured significant and pervasive hardship including two record-setting floods and a once-in-a-generation derecho event amid the COVID-19 pandemic, that disproportionately impacted the urban core of Cedar Rapids and its residents, resulting in significant human displacement and billions of dollars in damages. In response, the Cedar Rapids community has responded with hope and resilience. The district vision, *Every Learner. Future Ready.*, is a commitment to the Cedar Rapids community. *Future Ready Magnet Schools* will build on this critical commitment and communicate that regardless of circumstance, every student will have a passion, pathway, and plan to achieve their dreams.