

The HPS Pathways to Hope Project Abstract

The Hope School District (HPS) of Hope, Arkansas is proposing to use funding provided through the Magnet School Assistance Program to create five new, whole school magnets. The HPS Pathways to Hope Project will provide a personalized, rich STEAM and public service focused learning environment to students (K-12) at the proposed project schools: Clinton Primary Elementary School (900 students) with the theme of STEAM, Beryl Henry Elementary School (200 students) with the theme of the Arts, Yerger Middle School (225 students) with the theme of STEM, Hope Academy of Public (220 students) with the theme of public service and media literacy and Hope High School (630 students) with the theme of STEAM, public service and media literacy. Three of the schools are experiencing high degrees of minority group isolation of Black/African American students and one is experiencing a high degree of minority group isolation of Hispanic students. All five schools have high rates of eligibility in free and reduced-price lunch programs (73-89%). Another key reason for targeting these five sites is to provide the supports needed to significantly raise the levels of achievement.

The project objectives for the HPS MSAP are to: (1) Reduce minority group isolation among Black/African American and/or Hispanic students in the proposed magnet schools; (2) Ensure that all students attending the magnet schools meet challenging academic standards and are on track to be college- and career-ready; (3) Ensure that all students attending the magnet schools benefit from the magnet's educational offerings and have equal opportunities to gain magnet theme-specific value-added skills and knowledge; and (4) Build the capacity within the magnet schools to provide rigorous, theme- and evidence-based instructional programs that will help promote choice and diversity in HPS.