

Abstract

The Napa Valley Unified School District is pleased to submit this proposal to the U.S. Department of Education 2023 Magnet Schools Assistance Program. The magnet project proposal outlines the district goals for reducing minority group isolation among Hispanic/Latinx students and reducing socioeconomic isolation, increasing student achievement, and creating high quality, innovative learning environments that become models to build the capacity of schools across the district.

NVUSD serves 16,175 students in 27 schools. The student population is 58% Hispanic/Latinx, 26% White, and 9% Asian. 63% of students are socioeconomically disadvantaged.

| School, Grades served | Magnet Theme | Program | Students Served |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| McPherson Elementary (TK - 5) | STEAM | New, schoolwide | 617 |
| Shearer Elementary (TK - 8) | Career Exploration | New, schoolwide | 924 |

NVUSD has identified the following project objectives: (1) To achieve voluntary desegregation and create socioeconomic diversity through marketing and recruitment to attractive magnet themed programs, (2) Increase academic achievement in English Language Arts and Math and narrow the achievement gap for students between racial and socioeconomic subgroups. (3) Increase access for all students to innovative instructional approaches to prepare students for future college and career, (4) Provide extensive professional development to build capacity and sustain programs, (5) Increase parent involvement in the school and engagement in magnet themed learning experiences.

A rigorous external evaluation will examine (1) how students in two MSAP-funded schools perform relative to academically and demographically similar peers in similar non-magnet schools in the same school district, and (2) how a writing intervention in one MSAP funded school improves student achievement in English Language Arts (ELA) relative to academically and demographically similar comparison students at five other magnet elementary schools in Napa Valley.

The NVUSD Magnet Project will build on the district's commitment to inspire life-long learning through responsive, engaging learning for all students.