

Tangipahoa Parish School System

Project Title: Pioneer Project

Project Goals: 1. Reduce African American minority group isolation, 2. Each Project Magnet School will improve their Louisiana's School Performance Scores annually, 3. All Pioneer magnet students score proficient or higher on Louisiana's Grades PreK–12 annual state performance assessments, 4. Initiate attractive thematic magnet schools using teaching methods and practices that result in racially and socioeconomic diverse student populations, 5. Initiate attractive thematic magnet schools using teaching methods and practices that result in racially and socioeconomic diverse student populations, 6. Increase the individual and collective abilities of each magnet school's professional staff to continuously improve student learning, and 7. All magnet students will be college ready or prepared for a technical career.

Project Objectives: 1) to reduce African American racial isolation closer to the district wide average of 69% over the next five years in three district schools currently serving the lowest income African American student populations; 2) to increase annually the number of student applications from each racial and socioeconomic group to each magnet school by 10 during each application period; 3) to increase the racial diversity of each identified feeder schools by 1% annually; to increase each project magnet school's performance scores to a level by the end of the five-year project as determined by the Louisiana state department of education accountability system; 4) to increase by 2% annually the number of students at each of the project campuses scoring proficient and advanced on the Louisiana state accountability test for English/language arts, mathematics, and science; 5) to offer new attractive magnet themes during the first project period that include a variety of supplemental thematic activities and teaching approaches proven successful nationally; 6) to train all project campus teachers and staff members annually in student-centered teaching pedagogies including: inquiry base learning techniques and, personalized learning as well as the use of engaging curricula that include steam and hands-on science that all magnet teachers will be using each as part of classroom instruction by the end of the five-year project period; 7) to increase the percentage of project magnet students each year to take courses leading to entrance into a state college or university while gaining knowledge of professional careers; and 8) to develop (or refreshed) formal partnerships with area businesses, educational institutions of higher education, medical institutions, and with local businesses annually so that a baseline number of partnership interactions by 10% each project year

Names of Magnet Schools: O.W. Dillion Elementary School (308 students), Amite Westside Middle School (292 students), Amite High School (411 students), and Advanced College and Career Magnet Center (ACCMC) (460 students).

Studies Cited: Borman, Kemple, J. & Willner, C. (2008). Career academies long term impacts on labor-market outcomes, educational attainment, and transitions to adulthood. New York, NY: MDRC. The impact of eMINTS professional development on teacher instruction and student achievement. Year 3 report. Washington, DC: American Institutes for Research.

Brief Description of the Program- Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) seeks initial funding for the establishment of three STEAM magnet schools and an Advanced College and Career Magnet Center (ACCMC), as required by the Unitary Consent Agreement approved by the Court. A regional consortium consisting of two school districts including the Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) and Washington Parish School System will collaborate on an Inter-district project for the ACCMC, overseen by TPSS.