

## The Victoria, Texas Choice STEM Pathway Project ABSTRACT

Victoria Independent School District (VISD) in Victoria, Texas has developed the **Choice STEM Pathway Project** to address Hispanic minority group isolation. This project will create a **K-12 STEM magnet theme *that is grounded in workplace skills*** for students in the Victoria area using the *Texas Education Agency College and Career Readiness School Model*. All the project campuses are **new whole school** magnets. Each STEM theme is built on the Choice STEM Pathway Project initiative to give students rigorous and relevant academic experiences which will be successful in racially and socioeconomically diversifying these project schools. The three schools are:

- **Smith STEM Academy** (K-5) with an enrollment of 549 students
- **Stroman Middle School STEM Academy** (6-8) with an enrollment of 713 students
- **Victoria East High Magnet High School** (9-12) with an enrollment of 1845 students

The **conceptual framework** for the project's STEM magnet theme builds on the **theory of change** that personalized learning with collaborative relationships and giving students voice and agency in their own learning is truly transformational. ***Each component of the project is interconnected.*** Project based learning will be the **instructional activities** that undergird classroom instruction to make learning more authentic as skills and conceptual understandings are applied in the exploration of real-world issues. **Teaching methodologies** will be competency based and include the use of technology. The project schools will also be **systemically restructured** by using the Comer Model to reorganize the decision-making governance structure of each school to be more inclusive. Two **instructional interventions** have been identified and will be used to enhance students' success. PALS is a school-wide intervention that trains elementary and middle school students in how to work together as they practice skills development; ALAS is an intervention that pairs an adult with a middle or high school student who is at-risk of dropping out.

### Expected Outcome Goals and Objectives

**Goal #1** – Reduce Hispanic minority isolation, as well as low-income SES student populations without negatively impacting the feeder schools. **(1.1, 1.2, 1.3)**

**Goal #2** – Implement rigorous and highly engaging magnet school STEM themes that build the capacity of all students to meet or exceed Texas state standards in Reading/English Language Arts and in Mathematics. **(2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)**

**Goal #3** – Design and develop innovative educational methods and practices that personalize learning using interdisciplinary and real-world project-based learning that incorporates hands-on inquiry. **(3.1, 3.2)**

**Goal #4** – Strengthen student knowledge of academic subjects as well as attain tangible and marketable career, technological, and professional skills. **(4.1, 4.2, 4.3)**

**Goal #5** – Develop student-centered magnet schools that employ highly qualified teachers who use evidence based instructional methods and practices in the classrooms and whose governing structure includes all stakeholders' perspectives. **(5.1, 5.2)**

**Goal #6** – All students in the project schools will have equitable access to be successful academically to continue to their next level of education and/or productive employment without the need for remediation. **(6.1, 6.2)**