

ABSTRACT

Title: Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) is one of the nation's largest school districts serving more than 80,000 students in 158 schools. Through *SOAR*: **S**trengthening **O**utcomes for students, increasing **A**ccess, and **R**educing minority group isolation, we will implement our proposed Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant with evidenced-based programs at six high-need MNPS schools. The **magnet approach will be three-pronged** focusing on (1) teacher professional learning; (2) innovative evidence-based PBL instruction; and (3) enrichment programs allowing hands on application of skills. ***SOAR Goals:*** Goal 1. Reduce minority group isolation by employing recruitment and selection approaches that prevent, reduce, or eliminate minority group isolation and promote socioeconomic integration. Goal 2. Improve academic achievement through an educationally challenging and diverse learning environment that empowers all students to achieve their potential. Goal 3. Increase student engagement by implementing evidence-based, magnet programs and innovative instructional approaches for students from different backgrounds. Goal 4. Ensure students have access to effective educators through high-quality professional learning and sustainable integration of magnet themes. ***SOAR Objectives:*** Sustain all *SOAR* magnet programs with decreased minority group isolation; improved socioeconomic diversity and student achievement in Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics. ***Magnet Schools:*** Through a voluntary desegregation plan, six new high-need MNPS schools will implement *SOAR* whole-school magnet programs: Amqui ES (IB, Global Communications), Cumberland ES (College Readiness, Career & Community), Isaac Litton MS (STEM), Madison MS (IB, Arts), Neely's Bend ES (IB, World Cultures, International Arts), and Wright MS (Global Media & Mass Communication). ***Number of Students:*** *SOAR* will serve an average of 2,890 high-need K-8 students per year across the six whole-school magnet programs.