

Project Abstract

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties (District Five) proposes to implement a five-year Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant entitled *Project Aspire* to reduce minority group isolation of black students and increase socioeconomic diversity at two elementary schools. *Project Aspire* includes the launch of one new and one significantly revised, magnet program that will implement evidence-based models of instruction and equitable practices designed to improve student achievement. Harbison West Elementary School Gifted and Talent Development Magnet will operate as a whole school program and serve 643 students. Seven Oaks Elementary School Global Magnet will operate as a significantly revised whole school magnet and serve 624 students. Project Objectives align with the purposes of the MSAP program and include:

- **Objective 1: Desegregation** – To implement high-quality magnet programs that increase choice and promote diversity by reducing Minority Group Isolation (MGI) among black students and increasing socioeconomic diversity in Irmo schools.
- **Objective 2: Student Engagement** - To implement evidence-based instructional practices and authentic learning opportunities that promote increased opportunities for students to interact with other students from diverse backgrounds and support academic rigor and engagement for all students.
- **Objective 3: Academic Achievement** - To provide an innovative theme-based curriculum at each magnet school that strengthens student knowledge in academic subjects and provides all students the opportunity to improve academic achievement and meet challenging State academic standards.
- **Objective 4: Family and Community Engagement** - To provide opportunities for families/caregivers and community partners to be actively involved in the development and implementation of innovative theme-based curricula at each magnet school.
- **Objective 5: Sustainability** - To build the capacity of magnet school faculty to deliver and sustain high-quality, viable magnet programs after Federal funding.