

Ypsilanti Community Schools (YCS – applicant / fiscal agent), located in Ypsilanti, Michigan, requests *Magnet Schools Assistance Program* funding to implement *ARC: Academically Rigorous Choices*. Ypsilanti Community Schools educates 3,723 students, grades PreK – 12, enrolled in 11 high-need, underserved schools. *ARC* will empower YCS to reduce Black student isolation, improve equity in education, raise student achievement, expand academic options at four high-need urban schools and meet the goals of **Voluntary Desegregation**. *ARC* will meet the requirements of the *Magnet Schools Assistance Program* and reduce Black student isolation in four proposed magnet schools that do not comply with the YCS **Voluntary Desegregation Plan** and deviate + / - 15% from community-wide Black resident racial balance as measured by U.S. Census population demographics for Ypsilanti School District Census tract. *ARC* will support the following proposed magnet schools:

<i>ACR Magnet Schools and Themes 2023 - 2028</i>			
School	Magnet Theme	Grades	Status
Ford Early Learning Center	STEAM	PK – 1	Whole School
Holmes Elementary School	STEAM	2 – 5	Whole School
Ypsilanti Middle School	International Baccalaureate	6 – 8	Academy
Ypsilanti Community High School	International Baccalaureate	9 – 12	Academy

Implementation of *ARC* during the five-year grant period (10/1/2023 – 9/30/28) will help Ypsilanti Community Schools and collaborating partners meet and exceed the following project Goal and Objectives:

<i>ARC: Project Goal and Objectives</i>
<u>GOAL:</u> To increase equity in education and academic achievement in racially identifiable schools.
Objective 1: Reduce racial and socio-economic isolation in segregated schools. Objective 2: Improve academic performance in underserved schools. Objective 3: Create and sustain magnet schools that expand academic choices for students. Objective 4: Enhance diversity of perspectives that impact academic planning and decision-making.

YCS, utilizing magnet schools serving Grades PreK – 12, will promote desegregation of magnet schools impacted by Black student isolation; increase interaction among students of different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds; improve academic achievement for all students; implement high quality activities that support rigorous academic standards; improve teacher quality and promote enhanced parent involvement. Ongoing evaluation of *ARC* by an external evaluation team will measure progress and promote continuous improvement.