

PROJECT ELEVATE ABSTRACT

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) is pleased to submit this proposal to the U.S. Department of Education's Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) for the 2023-28 funding cycle. District goals for the grant include preventing minority group isolation, increasing student achievement, and building district and school capacity to offer broader educational choice and high quality, integrated learning environments. MSAP funding will support five whole-school magnet programs in eastern Wake County, adding two new programs and significantly revising three existing magnet programs: **Wendell Magnet Elementary School** (at least 430 students impacted per year) will significantly revise its existing Creative Arts & Science Magnet theme to become Design & Creative Arts and **Wendell Magnet Middle School** (at least 734 students impacted per year) will establish a new magnet theme to become Design & Creative Arts. Both schools will emphasize design thinking for creative problem-solving. **Zebulon Magnet Elementary School** (at least 590 students impacted per year) and **Zebulon Magnet Middle School** (at least 704 students impacted per year) will significantly revise their existing Gifted & Talented magnet program by adding design thinking and STEM-Advanced Studies to provide a foundation for advanced learning experiences. **East Wake Magnet High School** (at least 1,651 students impacted per year) will establish an innovative *i*Tech & Design theme that will integrate design thinking into instruction, accelerate students' post-secondary success through a dual-enrollment program with Wake Technical Community College, and add academic support through AVID. MSAP project schools will apply evidence-based strategies to increase student achievement and close achievement gaps, create new thematic curriculum units, and expand opportunities for family engagement and community partnerships.