

Metro Nashville Public Schools Magnet Schools Assistance Program (2020-2025)

The Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS), a large county-wide school district that serves close to 87,000 students in 161 schools, has a rich and proud history of school desegregation dating back to 1957. MNPS is proposing to use funding provided through the MSAP to create two new, whole-school magnets: Alex Green ES with the theme of Design Technology (240 students) and Tom Joy ES with the theme of Digital Literacy & Leadership (365 students). Additionally, MNPS will significantly revise two existing magnet programs—Carter-Lawrence Math and Science Magnet will become the Carter-Lawrence Engineering Elementary Magnet School (262 students), and Isaiah T. Creswell School of the Arts will become Isaiah T. Creswell Middle School of Visual and Performing Arts (350 students). All four schools are experiencing high degrees of minority group isolation (MGI) of Black/African American students, and the schools' rates of eligibility for free and reduced-price lunch are considerably higher than the districtwide averages. Another key reason for targeting the four proposed sites is to provide the supports needed to significantly raise the levels of achievement. Two of the four schools have been identified by the State of Tennessee as Priority schools, while the other two have student achievement levels below the districtwide averages in English Language Arts and Math. The project objectives for the MNPS MSAP are to: (1) Reduce minority group isolation among Black/African American students in the proposed magnet schools; (2) Ensure that all students attending the magnet schools meet challenging academic standards and are on track to be college- and career-ready; (3) Ensure that all students attending the magnet schools benefit from the magnet's educational offerings and have equal opportunities to gain magnet theme-specific value-added skills and knowledge; and (4) Build the capacity within the magnet schools to provide rigorous, theme- and evidence-based instructional programs that will help promote choice and diversity in MNPS.