



Fayette County Public Schools

Executive Summary Fayette County Public Schools Board Meeting Agenda Item

MEETING: Planning

DATE: 11/13/2023

TOPIC: Magnet Schools Assistance Program Grant Application Requirements

PREPARED BY: Dr. Martha Jones, Director of Grants Programming

Recommended Action on: 11/13/2023
Action Item for Vote (PLANNING MEETING)

Superintendent Prior Approval: No

Recommendation/Motion: School Board resolves to implement the Voluntary Plan if MSAP grant funds are awarded.

Background/Rationale: The Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) is a grant program facilitated by the USDOE to support the revision and expansion of magnet programs. MSAP grants provide awards of up to 15 million dollars to be utilized over a five-year period. FCPS intends to apply for MSAP funds in the upcoming grant competition, which will begin in December 2023. The grant awards will be announced in October 2024. If funds are awarded, FCPS will use the grant to maximize the reach and impact of our magnet system. MSAP funds will enable FCPS to revise existing magnet programs and/or add new magnet programs. The revised or new programs will reflect the latest scholarly research on magnet designs. The novel themes will also provide a broader range of program offerings, expanding the options for FCPS parents and students.

The MSAP, and the magnet school movement, were established, in part, to reduce minority group isolation in public schools. Because desegregation is fundamental to the MSAP program, the USDOE requires that applicants submit a voluntary desegregation plan with their grant proposal. These plans must have school board approval; applications that do not have a voluntary desegregation plan are deemed ineligible for the grant competition. Because this is a grant requirement, the voluntary plans for all awarded districts are publicly available on the OESE website. Examples of recently awarded districts that are similar to FCPS include Nashville Public Schools, Richland County School District in Columbia, South Carolina, and Pasadena Unified Schools. The Voluntary Desegregation Plan we are submitting for approval was created by a multidisciplinary team that includes Grants Programming, District Legal, and Dr. Soraya Matthews. Our team also received guidance from the United States Department of Education's Office of School Choice and Improvement.

Strategic Priority:

- Student Achievement Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
- Highly Effective & Culturally Responsive Workforce
- Stakeholder Engagement & Outreach Organizational Health & Efficiency

Data Considerations: 1)Reduce minority group isolation in the targeted schools.
2)Increase the number and percentage of minority staff in the targeted schools.

Policy: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Fiscal Impact: FCPS could potentially receive up to fifteen million dollars in grant funds.

Attachments(s): Proposed Voluntary Desegregation Plan