

Abstract

Within the New York City Department of Education, a consortium comprising Community School Districts 27 and 29 in the borough of Queens is requesting a total three-year grant in the amount of \$11,475,000 from the Magnet Schools Assistance Program to convert five elementary schools into whole-school magnets. All five schools are experiencing high degrees of MGI of Hispanic students (two schools), African American students (two schools), or Asian students (one school). The rates of MGI range from a low of 10 percentage points above the district-wide average to a high of 40 percentage points above the district-wide average at the same educational level. Collectively, the five schools serve a total of 3,113 students in grades pre-K–5.

The D27-29 magnet program will provide each student in the five magnet schools with a rigorous educational experience that:

- stems from a content-based theme that is unique to and draws on the strengths of the individual school communities (PS 62 – Computer Science and Innovation, PS 254 - Leadership Development and the Arts, PS 316 - Global Conservation and Service Learning, PS 52 - Innovation, Exploration, and Engineering, and PS 195 - Multimedia Arts and STEM);
- promotes the development, implementation, and refinement of interdisciplinary thematic curricula mapped to city, state, and national standards;
- embeds into teaching and learning research- and evidence-based instructional strategies that have been shown to promote high levels of student achievement and the attainment of noncognitive skills critical to students' college and career readiness (e.g., project-based learning, cultural competency); and
- demonstrates the effective use of state-of-the-art technology to connect students to each other as well as to peers and mentors around the globe.