**Project Description:**

*STEM Pathways Project* is a five-year initiative designed to prevent minority group isolation and
to improve academic achievement by providing additional public school choice for students and their families.

Instructional programs at the STEM Pathways schools feature innovative educational methods and practices that address student needs and interests, and are designed to improve academic achievement for all students. Key features include: Problem/Project-based Learning, a teaching method that engages students in acquiring knowledge and skills through an extended inquiry process structured around carefully designed tasks; a Summer Bridge program offered to prepare students with strategies for success in the rigorous programs; FastPATH Labs, to provide access to resources, support personnel, and supplemental educational services after school; Career and College Readiness, which provide students opportunities to explore topics within real-world contexts with a focus on preparing them for college and a career through community, industry and higher education partnerships; and, for the two high schools, an Extended Period Day, which allows for flexible instructional time blocks that allow students more time for work-based learning.

**Project Goals**

1. Reduce minority and socioeconomic isolation.

2. Increase academic achievement of all students within each isolated demographic group in Reading, Math and Science.

3. Implement innovative STEM curriculum specific to theme.

4. Increase capacity of core and magnet-themed teachers to deliver innovative curriculum.

5. Increase local, regional and national partnerships to provide access to real world STEM experiences.