

*Transformations*  
A Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) Grant Application  
to the  
U. S. Department of Education

Pinellas County Schools will submit a grant proposal to develop and implement five new or significantly revised magnet schools. The district has been planning this grant proposal for over 18 months by surveying parents and meeting with school and district staff. Additional information on each school's proposed magnet theme will be presented at the May 14th Parent University and at community events at each of the schools. The schools proposed for new magnet programs include Fairmount Park, Lakewood, Maximo, Melrose, and Sandy Lane. The former Marine Science magnet program at Campbell Park will be reestablished through local funds. The grant is due June 1, 2016.

Research indicates that magnet schools can improve instruction and student engagement, reduce instances of high poverty concentration and minority group isolation. **Therefore, Pinellas developed a multifaceted Turnaround Plan for these schools. Developing rigorous, highly attractive, and engaging magnet themed curriculum in this Transformations grant proposal, is included as part one component of that plan.**

The five schools proposed as magnets in this grant will each implement a thematic magnet curriculum for all students with a strong STEAM, Science Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics focus. **All students currently attending these schools will participate in the rigorous engaging themed curriculum.** In other words, all students will be involved in the more focused and rigorous curriculum including students who live in or live in other school zones who may choose to attend these programs through the annual application process. **Targeted marketing and recruitment from a more diverse pool of non-zoned students should over time help these schools become more diverse, which research indicates leads to improved academic and life outcomes for all students.**

Funds will be used to, expand choice options for students, target marketing and recruitment to a diverse group of students from various socioeconomic, ethnic and racial backgrounds, and **develop engaging, innovative programs that will increase student achievement for all students.** These five schools all have significantly higher African American and low-income enrollments than the cities in which they are located and therefore, they meet the definition of minority group isolation required for the grant.

While federal grant funds will greatly assist in developing these magnet programs, **Pinellas County Schools is prepared to seek a variety of funding sources (grant and local funds) to support establishing these innovative themed curriculum programs at these schools as part of the Turnaround Plan even if the MSAP grant is not selected for funding this year.**