



# Academic Services

The U.S. Department of Education  
Magnet Schools  
Assistance Program (MSAP)  
Grant

# What You Will Learn Today

- What is the MSAP Grant?
- Why is HISD applying for this grant?
- What due diligence was performed?
- What is the community engagement?
- What are the selected themes?
- What are the selected schools?
- What are the next steps?

# What is the MSAP Grant?

- The MSAP provides grants to school districts designed to bring students from different social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds together.

Grant awards can be up to \$12.0 million over a 3-year period  
(not to exceed \$4.0 million per year).

# Why is HISD Applying for this Grant?

A great opportunity to influence and impact a number of schools with new funding to provide students with meaningful and quality options and recruit new families to the district.

- Additional grant funding will help the district strengthen the magnet concept with minimum budget impact.
- The MSAP grant cycle is 3-years (next one occurring in April 2013).

# What Due Diligence was Performed?

- The initial discussions of this grant began in December 2009. The last time that HISD received this grant was back in 1985 - 1988.
- National consultants with expertise and experience on the MSAP grant were brought in to assist.

Jan 07 – Feb 10: Themes & schools shared with board members

Feb 12: Principals notified

Feb16: School community meetings initiated

# What is the Community Engagement?

- **5 district-team meetings**
- **48 school-based meetings**
- **District web-page**

# What are the Selected Themes?

- 1) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)
- 2) International Baccalaureate (IB)
- 3) Health Sciences
- 4) Montessori

# Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

<b>Program Description</b>	The focus of this program will be on Green Renewable Energy and Technology (GREAT). The district will partner with leading Houston organizations such as NASA, energy/oil/gas companies, the Texas Medical Center, and leading higher education institutions to offer hands-on courses in nano-technology, biofuels, solar thermal, alternative energy sources, sciences, mathematics, and technology.
<b>WOW Factor</b>	The green energy industry represents more than 9 million jobs and \$1,045 billion in U.S. revenue alone. By 2030, it is estimated that there will be about 37 million jobs in green energy, representing about 17% of the job sector.

# International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years

<b>Program Description</b>	This program consists of eight subject groups integrated through five areas of interaction that provide a framework for learning within and across the subjects. In the final year of the program, students also engage in a personal project, which allows them to demonstrate the understandings and skills they have developed throughout the program.
<b>WOW Factor</b>	The district will partner with local and national community service organizations such as the Red Cross, UNICEF, United Way, and local Houston consulate offices to provide students hands-on opportunities to apply classroom instruction to real world events. Houston has the third highest number of consulates in the nation (91 in total). Some of these include Japan, Pakistan, Spain, India, China, and Russia.

# Health Sciences

<b>Program Description</b>	A health science education will provide students with the skills and knowledge to promote responsible lifetime decision making and contribute to a healthy and safe society. This program teaches students the skills necessary to weigh options, to make responsible decisions and to develop behaviors that promote healthful living.
<b>WOW Factor</b>	The district currently only has one magnet school, DeBakey High School focused in the area of medicine. Having a health program at the elementary level will help create a foundation of health in children. Students will be encouraged to assess their attitudes and behavior patterns and to understand the impact their life choices have on their communities and on their own well-being.

# Montessori

<b>Program Description</b>	Student-driven education and a hands-on environment are two of the most essential elements of a Montessori program. Instead of traditional textbooks and workbooks, students primarily learn through hands on experience, investigation, and research. Students will be taught to manage their own community and develop leadership skills and independence.
<b>WOW Factor</b>	In the last five years, authorized Montessori programs within Texas have increased by about 41% (Data Source: TEA AEIS Campus Reports). According to a 2009 study performed by the HISD Research and Accountability Department, the Stanford 10 reading and mathematics data showed the Montessori program was successful for district students who participated in the program compared with those that did not participate.

# What are the Selected Schools?

- 1) Jones High School
- 2) Fondren Middle School
- 3) Dodson Elementary School
- 4) Whidby Elementary School
- 5) Garden Oaks Elementary School

# Jones High School

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

<b>1</b>	<b>Building Capacity</b>	Jones High School has capacity for about 1,448 students. Enrollment as of January 2010 was about 704 students.
<b>2</b>	<b>Academic Performance</b>	In the last 5 years Jones High School has missed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In 3 out of the last 5 school years Jones High School has had a TEA accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable.
<b>3</b>	<b>Location</b>	Quality and diverse educational options for students are needed in the area.

# Fondren Middle School

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

<b>1</b>	<b>Building Capacity</b>	Fondren Middle School has capacity for about 1,287 students. Enrollment as of January 2010 was about 739 students.
<b>2</b>	<b>Academic Performance</b>	In the last 5 years Fondren Middle School has missed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In 3 of the last 5 school years Fondren Middle School has had a TEA accountability rating of Academically Unacceptable.
<b>3</b>	<b>Location</b>	An IB program at Fondren Middle School will create an additional option for the 4 elementary schools. The other middle school with an IB program, Lanier, is at capacity.

# Dodson Elementary School

## Montessori

<b>1</b>	<b>Existing Montessori Program</b>	Dodson Elementary School has an existing Montessori and Traditional program (School Within a School). Enrollment in the Montessori program as of January 2010 was about 139 students.
<b>2</b>	<b>Close Proximity to Whidby E.S.</b>	Since Whidby Elementary School (located about 6 miles from Dodson) also has an existing Montessori and Traditional program but no building capacity, the Whidby Montessori program will be relocated at Dodson (available building capacity at Dodson is 311).
<b>3</b>	<b>Location</b>	HISD has a school-wide Montessori program in the central part of Houston. Dodson Elementary School would provide a school-wide Montessori program in the east part of Houston.

# Whidby Elementary School

## Health Sciences

<b>1</b>	<b>Location</b>	Whidby Elementary School is located near the Texas Medical Center and DeBakey High School for Health Professions.
<b>2</b>	<b>Community Appeal</b>	Having a Health Sciences program in this area will appeal to the community and be a draw for students.
<b>3</b>	<b>Maintain Magnet Appeal</b>	With the Montessori program at Whidby relocating to Dodson, a Health Sciences program at Whidby will allow the school community to build and expand a quality magnet program that draws students to the school.

# Garden Oaks Elementary School

## Montessori

<b>1</b>	<b>Existing Montessori Program</b>	Garden Oaks Elementary School has an existing Montessori and Traditional program (School Within a School). Enrollment in the Montessori program as of January 2010 was about 180 students.
<b>2</b>	<b>Montessori Program Wait List</b>	Garden Oaks Elementary School has a current wait list of about 50 students who want to attend the Montessori program.
<b>3</b>	<b>Location</b>	HISD has a school-wide Montessori program in the central part of Houston. Garden Oaks Elementary School would provide a school-wide Montessori program in the north part of Houston.

# Next Steps

- Board resolution
- Budget analysis
- Reconfigure attendance zones
- Continue school program design
- Continue engagement
- Grant submission
- Branding and communication