

# **Magnet STEM Elementary School**

# Concept of Magnet School

- They are public schools, that admit children from within and outside their school district.
- They are usually based on a theme and are typically more “hands on – minds on”
- They don't have to completely adhere to CC teaching. However, they are taught within the overall theme in order to prepare students for state CC testing.
- They make an extra effort to create a sense of classroom/ school community and cultivate school spirit.
- They try to make the curriculum as clear and transparent as possible for families, so they can fully engage in the learning of their students

# What students would be enrolled

- Some magnet schools utilize an entrance criteria and admission process, that can involve test-scores and grade-point averages.
- Other magnet schools favor an open admission process by lottery to foster diversity. Much like the proposed New Tech High School.
- Still others utilize teacher and parent recommendations for selection.
- Magnets often reserve a set amount of seats for district or zone students.

# What Grades and How many students

- The community and district may determine the desired grades to attend the magnet school.
- The district, community, and student/parental interest would determine the number of students who would attend the magnet school.

# Faculty necessary

- In general they tend to have a slightly higher student to teacher ratio than traditional schools.
- Thus, the number of teachers is slightly less.
- Teachers are “highly specialized” through specific theme-based training and professional development.

# **Cost and Benefit for HCSD**



# Cost

- Districts finance magnet schools the same way they finance other public schools.
- On average, they spend about \$200 more per student than non-magnet schools.
- Federal funding under Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) is also available.



# Benefits

- A Magnet School would allow the district to set aside slots for K-6 Hartnett zone students.
- This would satisfy parents of the Hartnett district children.
- It would also allow for more students to attend from both within and outside the district.
- Traditionally they have a waiting list, and would enable the district to deal with declining enrollment.

- Magnet schools generally attract a wide-range of students based on their interest in a school theme.



**Science Technology Engineering  
and Mathematics  
(STEM)**

# What is a STEM?

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math schools are more than what their name implies.
- They are commonly about learning to be critical thinkers.
- The learning is typically collaborative and project-based; kids work closely together in a hands-on way to solve real-world problems.

# Why a STEM?

1. Demand: Over the past 10 years, jobs in STEM fields have grown three times as fast as jobs in non-STEM fields. Over the next 10 years, the U.S. must produce ~1 M more STEM-degree graduates than currently projected to meet the demands of the economy.
2. In studies, STEM schools appear to improve the grades of minorities who attend.
3. A STEM can become a Magnet school of choice in CNY and draw students.
4. This would meet the district's previously stated desire to meet the upcoming demand for science and technology.

## PROJECTED PERCENTAGE INCREASES IN STEM JOBS: 2010-2020

