



Austin Independent School District – South Magnet Planning Committee

Potential New South Magnet Program Proposal	
Theme	Comprehensive Advanced Academics Magnet – “Innovative Advanced Magnet Program (iAM)”
Evidence of District Need	<p>An additional comprehensive advanced academics program in south Austin would provide Austin ISD constituents and families outside the district a greater opportunity to access a high school magnet program. Application numbers continue to increase every year for LASA and the Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, which are unable to admit the significant numbers of students applying to those programs.¹ LASA’s population is greatly out of line with the demographics of the district as a whole.² In addition, LASA’s distance from students living in South Austin is significant and due to Austin traffic patterns, means students living in South Austin face more than two hours of commute time daily.³</p> <p>The Dual Language (DL) component of iAM would support the students’ biliteracy development and offer the region a tremendous pool of bilingual and biliterate graduates. More than 8,000 students currently enrolled in AISD south Austin high schools are from a Spanish-language background.⁴ Students who participate in well-implemented DL programs outperform students who are not in DL programs.⁵ AISD has DL elementary programs district-wide, middle school DL programming at Fulmore, Lamar, and Paredes, and will implement additional middle school DL programming in SY16-17 at Covington, Small, and Webb. AISD parents surveyed have indicated that bilingualism and bi-literacy are of importance to them.⁶</p>
Description	The Innovative Advanced Magnet High School program (iAM) will educate Austin’s future leaders and global citizens by providing a rich and balanced advanced academic curriculum for college-bound students. iAM will implement best practices in instruction by incorporating project-based learning and community engagement through an interdisciplinary approach in each of the four signature courses and other content areas. iAM will prepare its students for college by providing access to dual credit courses, Advanced Placement (AP), and a Spanish dual language track. Students will

¹ AISD Dept. of Research & Evaluation, Increasing Access to Advanced Academic Programming Options in South Austin Survey - draft, Sept. 2015

² Austin American-Statesman, “Poor, minority missing out on Austin’s popular magnet,” Feb. 8, 2015

³ Ibid.

⁴ AISD DRE, 2016

⁵ Lindholm-Leary & Genesee, 2014

⁶ AISD ARE, Parent Survey, 2016



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have the option to obtain the Seal of Biliteracy on their high school diploma by completing required coursework.⁷

The four signature iAM courses are designed to prepare students for success in the real world: iAM creative (fine arts survey), iAM innovative (technology), iAM green (ecology) and iAM ready (personal finance, planning, leadership, preparation for independent living in college and life).

- In iAM Creative (fine arts survey/workshop), students will be exposed to a survey of visual arts, theatre/dance, and music through an interactive exploration of history, major artists, artwork, techniques, terminology, and aesthetics of each art form. Emphasis is placed on the evolution of the arts throughout history, the identification of major stylistic periods and artists, and a hands-on appreciation and understanding of a variety of art forms.
- As digital technology starts to dominate parts of our daily life, the skills needed to apply the digital devices to our personal and business processes are fundamental for success in the twenty-first century. In addition, the knowledge learned in computer science classes, such as critical thinking, business planning, logic, team work, and problem solving, is vital for students' future development. The iAM Innovative (technology) signature course is designed to introduce students to the technology, policies, and processes of creating Information Technology (IT) applications. The course involves a presentation of the final product. The class will invite speakers from various IT areas so students learn real world scenarios. This class has three components – the exploration of technology & trends; the exploration of IT application development; and the development of a website to demonstrate content knowledge.
- iAM Green (environmental science) will survey the major global environmental concerns affecting the Earth and its residents from the perspective of the environmental sciences. The iAM Green course is a multi-disciplinary environmental science course, including aspects of geology, biology, ecology, environmental studies, chemistry, and geography. The course will stress scientific principles and analysis and will include a laboratory component, while emphasizing the study of environmental issues from a sociological and political perspective.
- The iAM Ready (personal finance/financial literacy, planning, leadership, preparation for independent living in college and life) will prepare students to do well in society and in college. Real world finance skills will be heavily emphasized,

⁷ House Bill 5 and High School Graduation Requirements, Texas Education Agency, February 2014.
<http://www.tasenet.org/cms/lib07/TX01923126/Centricity/Domain/175/external/tea-ppt.pdf>



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	<p>covering elements of debt, credit, savings, budgeting, and tax returns. They will learn about setting goals and establishing plans to accomplish them. Coursework will include case studies, role playing, and experiential learning opportunities.</p> <p>Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a computer science track that would include exploration of database design and query, computer programming, AP Computer Science, and an independent study option that will be facilitated as a project-based learning experience.</p>
<p>Enrollment Criteria</p>	<p>Open to all students, targeting high-performing, college-bound students who meet the program’s rigorous admissions criteria</p> <p><u>Application and Enrollment Priorities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment would be based on academic record (grades and standardized test scores), teacher recommendation letters, and an in-person test and essay requirement. • Spaces available would be awarded by lottery to students meeting minimum scoring criteria identified for academic success.
<p>Facility Implications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom renovations; • Computer Science laboratory; • Digital technology laboratory; and • Green technology science laboratory.
<p>Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum/Program – Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, Dual Language; • Facility Improvements (see above); • Professional Development and Training – Advanced Placement, Computer Science, Dual Credit, Dual Language; • Technology – 1:1 student to device ratio; • Technology – Computer Laboratory Stations; and • Transportation.
<p>Additional Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dallas Magnet School for Talented and Gifted - http://tagmagnet.org/ • Dallas Science and Engineering Magnet school - http://semagnetschool.org/ • El Paso ISD dual language magnet - http://www.ehpsduallanguage.com/curriculum.html • Ed W. Clark High School, a comprehensive high school in Las Vegas with three magnet programs - http://www.clarkchargers.org/ • Houston Carnegie Vanguard High School, a program with a focus on pre-AP, AP, and honors electives - http://www.houstonisd.org/Page/79426