

# Voluntary Desegregation Plan

Brevard Public School District

**Meeting the purpose specified in section 5304 [20 U.S.C. 7231] of the Act:** *Brevard Public School District received Unitary Status in 1978.* The purpose of this voluntary desegregation plan, amended by the Brevard Public School Board in March 2017, is to provide all students served in Brevard Public Schools District the opportunity to learn in a desegregated environment. This plan proposes to:

- Prevent, reduce or eliminate social, racial, ethnic, economic, and/or geographic isolation
- Foster student integration and diversity
- Ensure equal educational opportunity and access for all students
- Provide instruction and experiences that foster understanding and that integrate students of different backgrounds together
- Reverse a trend of declining enrollment that leads to minority isolation

**Non-discrimination policies:** The School Board of Brevard Public Schools is committed to provide an equal opportunity for all students, regardless of race, color, creed, disability, religion, gender, ancestry, age, national origin, place of residence within the boundaries of the District, or social or economic background, or any other legally protected characteristics, to learn through the curriculum offered in this District. Additionally, this District will not discriminate in its employment policies and practices. (Reference: Board Policy 2260, revised: February 23, 2016.)

Brevard Public School District is dedicated to providing quality educational opportunities for all students regardless of background characteristics through fostering a high-quality teaching and learning environment that prepares all students for success in life, career and postsecondary by developing their capacity academically, socially, and emotionally.

**Plans to Increase Integration:** Socioeconomic diversity in designing and implementing programs will increase integration. Establishing Magnet school programs at sites where socioeconomic diversity exceeds the District average is a proven strategy for increasing integration. A magnet school as defined in Sec. 4401 [20 U.S.C. 7231a] is a public elementary school, public secondary school, public elementary education center, or public secondary education center that offers a special curriculum capable of attracting substantial numbers of students of different racial backgrounds.

**Magnet School Choice:** The school district's current magnet schools, Stone Magnet Middle, Palm Bay Magnet High, McNair Magnet Middle and Golfview Elementary Magnet were established to create a K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) continuum. Since 2013 the magnet programs at these four schools have provided increased opportunities for integration for students in the central and south areas of Brevard County. During 2016, Brevard Public Schools will continue to address socioeconomic diversity by establishing new magnet school programs at South Lake Elementary in the northern part of Brevard County, Rockledge High School in the central part of the county and Palm Bay Elementary in the southern part of the county. The inclusion of Palm Bay Elementary School and Rockledge High School in 2017 finalizes the K-12 STEAM continuum in the central and southern parts of Brevard County. Establishment of these seven magnet schools will

afford opportunities for students to enroll in a K-12 STEAM continuum regardless of where they live within the 72 mile-long county thereby increasing integration and voluntarily reducing minority group isolation across Brevard County. The course of instruction within each magnet school will strengthen all students' knowledge of academic subjects through a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics-STEAM theme.

**Student selection and equitable consideration for participation in the magnet schools:** Magnet school programs are open to all students including members of groups that have been traditionally underrepresented. Furthermore, schools **will not** use academic criteria as admissions criteria to gain entrance into the magnet schools. The magnet program director will work closely with the Division of Equity, Innovation and Choice personnel and the schools for an informational and recruitment campaign to solicit targeted candidates throughout the year. The Division of Equity, Innovation and Choice has established a choice timeline for the entire district to create consistency with recruitment fairs, applications, lotteries, and acceptance letters as well as maintains a database of all applicants by school/program. Students are tracked once they accept their seat and sign an online electronic commitment notice.

**Monitoring:** The District will annually monitor and assess the effectiveness of its efforts to balance diversity at all sites and efforts to avoid minority group isolation. This will include an analysis of:

- The percentage of minority/non-minority students at each school
- The percentage of socio-economically disadvantaged students at each school
- The number of new applications to the magnet school each year
- The effectiveness of the District's choice programs
- The effectiveness of the District's magnet schools

The District will continue to collect and maintain data necessary for such analysis and will take any necessary corrective action through race-neutral outreach and targeted recruitment.