

Abstract

The City School District of Albany has selected Albany High School, an identified Persistently Low-Achieving School, to be restructured into four magnet academies (the Citizenship Academy, the Discovery Academy, the Innovation Academy, and the Leadership Academy), to reduce racial isolation and improve the academic success of its students. The scope of services will address personalizing education for students, closing the achievement gap among sub-groups and improving the quality of teaching and instruction in this school through an extensive, embedded professional development plan. This plan increases the academic rigor of coursework and raises the expectation that all students can be successful. Both academic and social emotional supports will be structured to attain this goal. With the standards for academic success raised, there will be an expectation that minority enrollment in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Early College High School courses will increase as will graduation rates. Students will graduate prepared for higher education and the workforce.

Students in Albany High will now be able to enroll in one of the four magnet academies that will be funded under this project; the **Citizenship Academy** will focus on Exploring a Global Perspective; the **Discovery Academy** will focus on Exploring our Personal/Creative World; the **Innovation Academy** will focus on Exploring the Physical World, and the **Leadership Academy** will focus on Exploring the Strengths within Each of Us. Each magnet academy will enroll a maximum of 600 students. Enrollment in each academy will occur through the use of a lottery that will be conducted to ensure that racial isolation will be prevented when the high school is restructured into four magnet academies.

The district has been committed to magnet schools since the inception of its three elementary magnets in 1990.