

DESIGNATE NICHOLSON MATH AND SCIENCE ELEMENTARY AS A TECHNOLOGY MAGNET CLUSTER SCHOOL, CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATIONAL FOCUS TO A TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM AND CHANGE THE SCHOOL'S NAME TO NICHOLSON TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board designate Nicholson Math and Science Elementary School (unit # 2200), located at 6006 S. Peoria Street, as a technology magnet cluster school, change the school's educational focus to a technology program and change the school's name to Nicholson Technology Academy.

DESCRIPTION: Effective July 1, 2008, Nicholson Math and Science Elementary will (1) discontinue the current Math & Science magnet cluster program; (2) implement a technology program as its educational focus; (3) be designated as a technology magnet cluster school; and (4) undergo a name change and become Nicholson Technology Academy (Nicholson Tech or Nicholson).

Enrollment: Implementation of a Technology Magnet Cluster program will have no impact on the enrollment status of students currently attending Nicholson. Nicholson will continue to serve students in grades PreK-8 and shall enroll students based on the school's existing attendance boundaries. Students wishing to enroll in Nicholson Tech who reside outside the school's attendance boundaries must submit an application in accordance with the procedures established by the Office of Academic Enhancement. For the 2008-2009 school year, a special application process will be established by the Office of Academic Enhancement in spring 2008 to fill remaining spaces at Nicholson Tech. If more applications are received than there are spaces available, students will be selected for the remaining spaces through a computerized lottery process.

Curriculum: Nicholson Tech will provide its students with a Technology Magnet Program beginning at the kindergarten level. The Technology Magnet Program will work to systematically integrate technology throughout the core curriculum to not only engage the strengths, interests, and learning styles of students, but to also develop their advanced technology and 21st century skills. This will include enabling students to utilize technology to demonstrate creativity and innovation, communicate and collaborate with peers and experts, develop research and information fluency, think critically and problem solve, and understand the human, cultural and societal issues involved with living in the digital age. The integration of technology within the curriculum will be driven by the Illinois Learning Standards, National Educational Technology Standards, and the specific, evidence-based needs of the school. In particular, a special emphasis will be made on improving students' science, mathematics and writing skills through the use of problem-based units that incorporate technology as a learning tool.

Academic Calendar: Nicholson Tech will continue to follow the Chicago Public Schools Track E calendar. Teachers and educational support personnel may be required to commit to training and other activities outside of the academic calendar.

School Day: Nicholson will continue to employ a closed campus model with a minimum teacher school day of 8:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and a student standard school day of 9:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Teachers and educational support personnel may be required to commit to after-school training and activities with students, staff and community. After-school programming will be established to provide tutoring, instructional activities, enrichment activities and/or social center activities to students.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Board rules, policies, practices and collective bargaining agreements will govern any impact on positions and staff at the school.

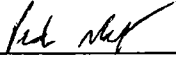
FINANCIAL: CPS has received a grant from the United States Department of Education in the amount of \$11,729,261.00 to support the establishment of five new technology magnet cluster schools, including Nicholson.

Approved for Consideration:




Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Within Appropriation:



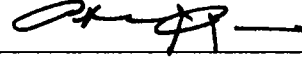
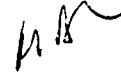
Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Approved as to legal form:



Patrick Rocks
General Counsel