



The School Board of Polk County

Project Name: Polytech Global

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Number of Schools Served: 8

Number of Students Served: 4,621

Year 1 Funding: \$3,964,935

The School Board of Polk County (Polk) in Florida is the 38th-largest school district in the nation. Polk has 160 schools and 94,000 students enrolled in grades K-12. Polk covers a geographic area nearly the size of Delaware, with 17 municipalities and extensive rural expanses. Sixty-three percent of Polk's students are eligible for the Free and Reduced Price School Meals Program. The student population is 51 percent White, 23 percent Black, and 24 percent Hispanic; in more than half of the schools, less than 50 percent of the student body is White. Polk is operating an 18-year-old system of magnet schools.

The Polytech Global project will create one new magnet program and significantly revise seven existing magnet programs with Magnet Schools Assistance Program funding. Combined, these eight schools will impact more than 4,500 students in Polk County. These schools and magnet themes are as follows:

Magnet School	Magnet Theme
Bartow Elementary Academy	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Bethune Academy	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Crystal Academy of Science and Engineering	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Frank E. Brigham Academy	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Jewett Middle Academy	International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
Lawton Chiles Middle Academy	International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
Lincoln Avenue Academy Magnet	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Union Academy Magnet School	International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme

The Polytech Global project will use technology integration, inquiry-based lessons, and situational learning provided by phosphate mining companies, local engineers, professors, industrial quality control technologists, business managers, and civic groups. The new magnet school, Crystal Academy of Science and Engineering, will offer a curriculum attractive to parents from all demographic subgroups that involves inquiry-based engineering projects. Significantly revised themes and curricula will reinvigorate the other seven magnet schools. They will feed into newly emerging programs at the University of South Florida Polytechnic.