

**APPROVE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENGINEERING MAGNET TRACK AT JOHN MARSHALL
HARLAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board approve the establishment of an engineering magnet track at Harlan Community Academy, located at 9652 South Michigan Avenue.

DESCRIPTION: Effective September 2009, an engineering magnet track will be established at John Marshall Harlan Community Academy. The magnet track will be a program within the school, but will accept students citywide. The magnet track will serve approximately 60 incoming freshmen during the 2009-2010 school year and add one grade each year until the track serves grades 9-12.

ENROLLMENT: Eighth grade students enrolled in the Academic Center at Harlan will be allowed to automatically matriculate into the engineering magnet track. The remaining spaces available will be filled through a citywide Options for Knowledge application process. All interested students will be required to submit an application. If more applications are received than there are spaces available, students will be randomly selected by computerized lottery. In order to be included in the computerized lottery, applicants must have minimum stanine scores of 5 in reading and mathematics on their seventh grade standardized tests. Because the engineering track is a four-year, sequential course of study, students will be admitted at the freshman level only.

A proximity lottery provision will be included in the computerized lottery process; the goal of the proximity lottery will be to achieve at least a 30 percent neighborhood component of the program's enrollment. Until the program's enrollment reaches this 30 percent goal, a separate proximity lottery will be held for applicants who meet the program's minimum academic requirements and live within a 2.5 mile radius of the school.

CURRICULUM: Harlan's magnet track will offer an engineering program beginning with the freshman level. The engineering program will create an age-appropriate learning experience focused on concepts of the engineering process. Students will develop their understanding of engineering using three major methods: activities-based learning, project-based learning and problem-based learning. Activities will engage students in learning skills that are later applied in more complex situations and lead students to higher levels of learning. Project-based learning is a comprehensive approach to instruction that presents a project or relevant activity that enables students to synthesize knowledge and to individually resolve problems in a curricular context. Problem-based learning presents a problem that is relevant and related to the context where students are the stakeholders. Students synthesize and construct knowledge to help them actively grapple with the complexities of the problem and develop strategies to direct their own learning.

Seventh and eighth grade students enrolled in the Academic Center at Harlan will participate in the Middle Years Gateway to Technology Program offered by Project Lead the Way, in order to provide a foundation for their matriculation into the engineering magnet track.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR: At inception, Harlan's engineering magnet track will follow the Chicago Public Schools' standard 10-month academic calendar from August to June with a summer school program in July and August. Teachers may be required to commit to training and other activities outside of the academic calendar.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: Harlan's engineering magnet track will be staffed in accordance with Board staffing formulas for all positions. Existing Math and Science teacher positions may close. Engineering Teacher-in-Training positions with unique program codes and Engineering Teacher positions with unique program codes will be created. In addition to certifications in Math and/or Science, training commitments, professional development, skills, abilities, proficiencies, experience and qualifications will apply to all Engineering Teachers and Teacher-in-Training teacher positions. Engineering training

qualifications may also be required for certain educational support or paraprofessional and service related personnel positions.

FINANCIAL: The financial implications will be addressed during the development of the 2009-2010 fiscal year budget.

Approved for Consideration:



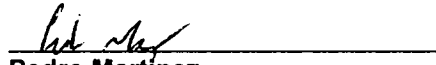
Barbara Eason-Watkins
Chief Education Officer

Approved:



Arne Duncan
Chief Executive Officer

Within Appropriation:



Pedro Martinez
Chief Financial Officer

Approve as to legal form:



Patrick J. Rocks
General Counsel

