

BOARD AGENDA ITEM

JANUARY 8, 2019

SUBJECT:

Expansion of Thematic Programs

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During the 2015-2016 school year, district leadership and stakeholders began research and discussion to pursue thematic programs to provide focused identities and choices in our schools. During the 2016-2017 school year, the seven high schools began implementation of their thematic designations, and in 2018-2019 the Aiken Scholars Academy opened as a middle college. During the 2017-2018 school year, additional schools began investigation with their school leadership teams and other stakeholders to identify their current core areas of strength as well as unique community interests to build upon those as the foundation for their thematic programs.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:

Administration worked with school leadership teams to highlight strengths and interest areas of those schools and the communities they serve. After feedback was received from internal and external stakeholders, the following thematic designations were proposed:

Belvedere Elementary School – World Language Immersion (Mandarin)
Clearwater Elementary School – World Language Immersion (Spanish)
Millbrook Elementary School – World Language Immersion (German)
North Augusta Middle School – Pre-Advanced Placement (Math Focus)
Paul Knox Middle School – Pre-Advanced Placement (Science Focus)
Schofield Middle School – Cambridge Lower Secondary

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the thematic designations for each of the six schools to begin implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

PREPARED BY:

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