Executive Summary

Ronald E. McNair
College & Career Academy

Funding Source
Through the Technical College System of Georgia, Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle has provided funding for local school districts and technical colleges to partner and apply for a grant to assist in creating college and career academies.

Partners
Georgia Piedmont Technical College and DeKalb businesses such as Georgia Power, DeKalb Fire and Rescue, Epps Aviation, Siemens and Oglethorpe Power. Other partners will be added based on needs.

Award Size
$3 million for construction costs
$150,000 for planning and preparation costs

Site Selection
Ronald E. McNair High School
Consideration for Selection:
• Declining School Enrolment
• Potential for School Growth
• School and Community needs based on community input and research
• Building size and amenities
• Relative renovation expense compared to new construction expenses
• Location of school within the district
• Ability to enhance community with innovative instructional programs

Purpose
The purpose of the Ronald E. McNair College and Career Academy is to provide quality instruction that prepares students for 21st century careers that address workforce development needs through partnerships with business/industry, secondary, and postsecondary institutions. The proposed Academy (grades 8–12) will accelerate students through their college and career pathways by providing innovative instructional programs that utilize dual enrollment and work-based learning opportunities.

Innovative Instructional Programs
• Create learning communities that address local, state, and federal workforce development needs. Multiple pathways will be addressed within the following program areas:
  o School of Engineering (Architectural Drawing and Design, Energy and Power, and Mechatronics [a combination of mechanical and electrical engineering] pathways)
  o School of Medicine (Biotechnology Research and Development, Health IT, Health Support Professionals pathways)
• School of Business and Computing (Gaming and Application Development, and Entrepreneurship pathways)
• School of Health and Public Services (Fire and Emergency Services, and Law Enforcement pathways)
• Other Potential Pathways: Aviation, Hospitality, Recreation and Tourism, Audio Video Technology and Film

  • Instruction that starts with eighth graders to allow accelerated focus towards post-secondary opportunities
  • Self-paced instruction focused on both academic and skills attainment that develop the mind and the hands
  • Instruction that is web-based, traditional, and independent studies
  • Year-round instruction with extended hours
  • Class offerings for parents and community members that lead to industry certifications, technical college credits, and associate degrees via evening classes
  • Remediation and credit recovery opportunities through web-based, traditional, independent studies, and evening classes

Connections to District Initiatives
Strategic Plan
  Goal Area 1 – Student Success with Equity and Access
  Goal Area 2 – Stakeholder Engagement
  Goal Area 4 – Internal and External Communication

Charter System