

Solicitation for Interest (SFI)

CCSD is searching for successful, experienced, qualified innovators to *partner* with the school district to improve student well-being and academic success in established neighborhood-zoned schools.

Overview

The Charleston County (SC) School District (CCSD) seeks qualified individuals or entities with a proven track record in increasing student achievement by providing comprehensive educational and administrative management to one or more low-performing elementary, middle, and/or high schools beginning with the start of the 2020-21 school year. Target schools may include one or more of nine (9) CCSD schools which have been identified by the S.C. Department of Education as being among the bottom five (5%) percent of Title I schools in the state, based on their most recent academic achievement ratings.

Respondents to this SFI must have a proven track record of implementing and managing successful turnaround approaches that have produced significant, sustainable achievement results, particularly with children of color or poverty in urban settings. Respondents without experience in successful school turnaround will be determined as unqualified for the purposes of this SFI. CCSD is searching for public or private innovators who will *partner* with the school district to improve student well-being and academic success in established neighborhood-zoned schools. The school district is not seeking to establish additional lottery-based, charter, or choice schools.

Applicants will be vetted through a process that will involve educator, family, and community representatives.

The CCSD Board of Trustees has adopted the following goal areas, with specific targets established for individual schools:

- *Performance Goal:* Student achievement expressed as the percentage of students at or above grade level in reading and math
- *Growth Goal:* Students exhibiting a minimum academic growth of one full year from the previous grade
- *Readiness Gap Goal:* Student reading, math, workplace skills at or above the college and career readiness expectation level on a K-12 pathway

The Board will consider performance on these goals, as well as effective fiscal management and positive school-family relationships, as strong indicators of partnership success.

Background: Charleston County Schools – Charleston, South Carolina

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the Atlantic coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

– For more information about Charleston County Schools, please click [here](#).

Responses

Interested parties are requested to respond to this Solicitation for Interest with a white paper.

Section 1 of the white paper shall provide the following as a minimum:

- Name, mailing address, phone number, and name of point of contact;
- Group type (e.g., LLC, non-profit, minority-owned, woman-owned, veteran-owned) and length of time working to turn around schools;
- Resumes or detailed bios of individuals proposing to lead this work;
- Summary of group’s philosophy regarding education and student achievement; and educational/curricula used in schools.

Section 2 of the white paper shall include details related to the following as a minimum:

- Number and size of elementary, middle and/or secondary schools under management currently or previously; locations of schools; academic achievement and growth; and student retention data;
- Proven turnaround experience with improving academic achievement; climate/culture indicators; teacher recruitment/retention; and parent/community engagement;
- Experience generating annual budgets and financial projections; evidence of fiscal soundness of existing schools.

White papers in Microsoft Word or .pdf compatible format are due no later than **October 4, 2019, by 3:00 PM EST**. Responses shall be limited to no more than 8 pages and submitted via e-mail only to Julie Erickson at Julia_Erickson@charleston.k12.sc.us.

Proprietary information, if any, should be minimized and MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED. Please be advised that all submissions become CCSD property and will not be returned.

Post-White Paper Submission Tentative Timeline

October 2019	Finalists selected and notified. The district will request more details and/or schedule visits to schools in finalist’s portfolio.
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December 2019	The Board will make a decision regarding possible partner entities
By January 2020	The contract process will be completed
By March 2020	Any necessary waiver requests will be submitted to the South Carolina State Board of Education. Transition plans are in place for selected school(s)

Questions

Questions regarding this announcement shall be submitted in writing by e-mail to Julie Erickson at Julia_erickson@charleston.k12.sc.us . Verbal questions will not be accepted. Questions will be answered by e-mail. CCSD cannot guarantee that questions received after September 20, 2019 will be answered.

Summary

THIS IS A SOLICITATION FOR INTEREST (SFI) ONLY to identify entities interested in providing comprehensive educational, management, and academic support services to selected schools in CCSD. The information provided in the SFI is subject to change and is not binding on CCSD. CCSD has not make a commitment to use any of the services being considered, and release of this SFI should not be construed as such a commitment or authorization to incur cost for which reimbursement would be required or sought. All submissions become CCSD property and will not be returned.