

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS For MEASURING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S PRIORITY SCHOOLS TURNAROUND MODEL

Requests for Proposals Issued: December 20, 2012 Deadline for Submittal of Proposals: February 13, 2013

Requests for Proposals for Measuring the Effectiveness of the Priority Schools Turnaround Model

I. INSTRUCTIONS

The Sacramento City Unified School District is seeking proposals from qualified consulting firms to assist the District in measuring the effectiveness of its Priority Schools Turnaround Model.

Interested firms are invited to submit one original signed proposal and five (5) separate digital copies

II. BACKGROUND

In the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD), there is enormous potential to improve the lives of underserved children. SCUSD is the 12th largest school district in California and one of the 100 largest in the United States, serving approximately 44,000 students on 80 campuses. Neighborhoods served range from thriving affluent areas around the Capitol to federal housing projects. Seventy-two percent of SCUSD students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch; at 36 schools, 100% of students

11.9% 4% higher than the national average.

<u>The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University</u>, in conjunction with Time magazine, has named including whites student population is 36% Hispanic or Latino; 18.3% Asian; 16.3% African American; and 19% White. About 7% of students are of two or more races or ethnicities. Residents within SCUSD speak more than 40 languages; 38% of students do not speak English at home.

Currently, the District is in Year 3 of Program Improvement (PI), 55 (70%) of its schools have a PI designation. Sixteen of these are in Year 5 or greater of PI status. To reach its goal of ensuring that <u>all</u> of its students are college and career ready upon graduation, SCUSD must systemically improve the way its students learn and teachers teach. The organization must transform to become an efficient, effective model with a laser-like focus on student learning and instruction, which is seamlessly aligned with the goals of Pillar Three, Organizational Transformation, of the *Strategic Plan 2010-2014: Putting Children First.* To this end, the Priority Schools, which are learning laboratories, incubators of innovation and first in line for resources and support, serve as models for attacking persistent under-performance and the achievement gap by utilizing proven strategies and effective practices aimed at putting the schools on a trajectory for high performance plus be replicated and taken to scale across the District.

The genesis of this methodology took place in February, 2010, when the Districto scale

• Focus on professional learning and collaboration

At Jedediah Smith *(now named Leataata Floyd),* Oak Ridge, Father Keith B. Kenny, Fern Bacon, and Will C. Wood, teams of teachers were also trained the summer of 2010 in *Write Tools* strategies, an academic writing program aimed at assisting teachers to instruct students in how to write at a higher level of complexity. Additionally, Oak Ridge, Jedediah Smith *(now named Leataata Floyd),* and Father Keith B. Kenny teachers participated in *Culturally Responsive Teaching Strategies,* a program designed to assist teachers in a

practices

A. Submittal Letter

phone number

of the responding firm. Include a contact person and corresponding e-mail address. The letter shall state that the proposal shall be valid for a 60-day period and that the staff proposed is available immediately to work on this project. The person authorized by the firm to negotiate a contract with the District shall sign the cover letter.

B. Description of Firm

This section should provide information regarding the size, location, nature of work performed, years in business and the approach that will be used in meeting the needs of the District.

C. Organizational Structure

Describe your fi Supply the names of the professionals who will be responsible for this project. Please provide brief resumes for these individuals.

D. References and Description of Experience

This section should identify similar projects that the firm has completed as outlined in the RFP. Use

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V. SELECTION CRITERIA

Consulting firms submitting proposals are advised that all proposals will be evaluated to determine the firm deemed most qualified to meet the needs of the District. The selection criteria will include, but not be limited to, the items listed below:

- A. Demonstrated understanding and responsiveness to the Request for Proposals.
- B. Proposals and experience of firm and personnel named in the proposal.
- C. Past experience in assisting California school districts in implementing intervention supports, assessments, systemic data inquiry methodology for learning from student results, designing and implementing instruction improvements, and professional development targeted to improve student achievement.
- D.

under-performing schools. Include historical impact data for similar demographics and student performance.

- E. Project understanding and approach including an understanding of the District.
- F. Satisfaction of previous clients. Provide three (3) references that reflect similar demographics and student performance, and are similar to the work contemplated in this RFP. Include the scope of work for each reference.
- G. Oral interview.
- H. Completeness and quality of the proposal.
- L Cost proposal.

VI. PROCESS FOR SELECTING FIRM

A Selection Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Sara Noguchi, Area Assistant Superintendent and Dr. Olivine Roberts, Chief Academic Officer, will select and rank in the order of their qualifications those companies deemed to be the most highly qualified to perform the required work.

The Selection Advisory Committee may choose to interview any, all, or none of the respondents as may be in the best interest of the District. If interviews are held, the chairpersons will notify those companies selected as to place, date, and time. The District will make investigations as necessary regarding the financial stability o counsel.

The names of all firms submitting proposals and the names, if any, selected for interview shall be