

# Authorizing Quality School Options

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**Call For Great Schools Process**

Updated December 2024

**Fort Worth**  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



SYSTEM OF  
GREAT SCHOOLS



TXWES | FWISD  
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY  
NETWORK



- The What and Why Behind a Call For Great Schools (CGS)
- The Call For Great Schools Process
- The Performance Contract
- Program Review

# What is the Call For Great Schools (CGS)?

- The Call for Great Schools (CGS) is an opportunity for Fort Worth ISD to increase the number of quality seats for our families and meet our student outcomes goals
- Through the CGS, we can transform existing campuses and launch new environments for our students and communities

# What is the Call For Great Schools (CGS)?

- We ask several questions as we launch a CGS, including:
  - What has been proven to significantly advance student learning? Does this align with our vision?
  - How will a partnership create more opportunities and attract and retain more educators to the district?
  - Are there strategies from successful partnerships that can be replicated to impact more students?

# Why Launch a Call For Great Schools?



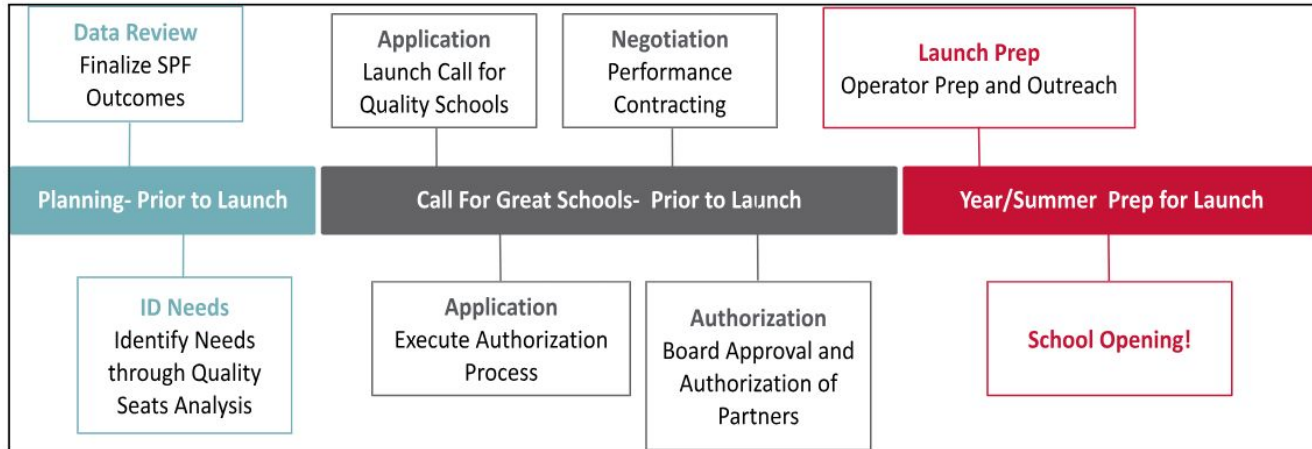
**IMPROVEMENT:** Dramatic transformation through expertise, talent, and resources to turn around chronically underperforming schools



**INNOVATION:** Expanding choices for families, best-fit options for diverse learners, and innovative offerings to attract and retain students



# The Call for Great Schools Process



# The Call for Great Schools Process

Qualified Partners Apply

Due December 31, 2024

Proposal Review

January 6-10, 2025

Agreements and Recommendations

January 17, 2025

Superintendent's Review

January 17-February 6, 2025

Board Vote and Contract Negotiations

February 18, 2025

# The Call for Great Schools Process: Who can be a Qualified Operating Partner?

Fort Worth ISD welcomes applications from organizations and universities that meet Texas requirements to operate per Board Policy, as a district-authorized subchapter C charter school:

- **Private or independent institution of higher education** *as defined under Section 61.003*
- **An open-enrollment charter school**, *as defined under Section 61.003*
- **An organization that is exempt from taxation** *under Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. Section 501(c)(3) and or,*
- **Governmental entity**



# The Call for Great Schools Process: How do qualified partners apply?

Applicant Information	Section 1: School Overview	Section 2: Educational Program	Section 3: Governance, Operating Plan, and Capacity	Section 4: Financial Plan	Section 5: Fort Worth ISD Supplement	Section 6: Existing School Operator Supplement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational Information</li> <li>• Innovation</li> <li>• Grade Levels Served</li> <li>• Applicant Team</li> <li>• Additional Campuses</li> <li>• Assurances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Summary</li> <li>• Enrollment Summary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum and Instructional Design</li> <li>• High School Requirements (HS Only)</li> <li>• Special Populations and At-Risk Students</li> <li>• School Culture and Discipline</li> <li>• Assessment and Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizational Structure</li> <li>• Governing Board</li> <li>• Applicant Team Capacity</li> <li>• Staffing Plans, Hiring, Professional Development, and Evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Management Practices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting the Need</li> <li>• Innovative Model</li> <li>• Parent and Community Involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Existing Operator Track Record</li> <li>• Education Service Provider Management Plan/Legal Relationship</li> </ul>

# The Call For Great Schools Process: The Call for Great Schools Application

*Once complete, a strong application should include:*

- Evidence of prior success
- A detailed educational plan
- Annual performance goals w/ interim measures
- A TX-based Governance Board w/ diverse skill sets
- Plan to address the unique needs of diverse students
- Strong human resource program
- School Culture that's student-centered/asset-based
- Strong leadership team

# The Call for Great Schools Process: CGS Application Scoring

Rating	Characteristics
<b>MEETS</b>	The response meets all criteria in the rubric. It reflects a thorough understanding of key issues. It addresses the topic with specific and accurate information that shows thorough preparation; presents a clear, realistic picture of how the school expects to operate; and inspires confidence in the applicant's capacity to carry out the plan effectively.
<b>PARTIALLY MEETS</b>	The response meets the criteria in many respects, but lacks detail and/or requires additional information in one or more areas.
<b>DOES NOT MEET STANDARD</b>	The response meets little to none of the criteria described in the section of the rubric, or is wholly undeveloped or significantly incomplete; demonstrates lack of preparation and/or evidence; is unsuited to the FWISD mission or otherwise raises substantial concerns about the viability of the plan or the applicant's ability to carry it out.

# The Call for Great Schools Process: How are applications reviewed?

## STEP 1: PAPER REVIEW

- Review Team Members are invited to participate and trained
- Individually read and score each application individually with a rubric, citing evidence from the application
- Discuss individual ratings as a group and come to consensus on ratings, evidence, and open questions.

## STEP 2: CAPACITY REVIEW

- Applicants are invited to a focused discussion
- Provides an opportunity for the applicant to demonstrate their capacity to run a transformative or innovative school

## STEP 3: AGREEMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Team reviews all of the information and makes a formal recommendation to the Superintendent
- The Superintendent makes a final decision and communicates their recommendation to the board

# The Call for Great Schools Process: Superintendent and Board role

- **The Superintendent's Review:** Based on the committee's recommendation and a host of other factors (QSA, SFP data, community input, cabinet discussions, etc.), the Superintendent makes the final decision before it goes to the Board:
  - *If approved:* The Recommendation goes to the Board for a vote at the next public meeting
  - *If not approved:* The applicant is thanked for their participation and notified that the process has concluded.
- **The Board's Role:** As part of a public meeting, the Board will vote on two items:
  - #1 the approval of the entity as an operating partner
  - #2 the contractual terms between the district and Operating Partner once complete.

***\*\*With the recommendation of the district, the Board can also vote to end/revoke a partnership agreement if/when a partner is not meeting their contractual terms.***

# The Performance Contract

In accordance with the ELA Policy the performance contract:

- formalizes the agreement, clarifies roles, expectations and responsibilities,
- outlines the operating partner's autonomy over the academic model, staffing, budget, and calendar, and it includes the academic model the partner will implement at the campus(es) they will manage.
- includes the funding structure and the academic and financial goals the operating partner must meet along with the consequences
- Includes the identified schools and a description of the partner's educational model

# Program Review

Fort Worth ISD uses several strategies to review an operator's program and contractual fidelity:

- **Program Monitoring:** *An annual calendar of desk audits and onsite visits that include student, staff, family and leadership interviews*
  - *Operating Partners receive a written report detailing the visit and any findings*
  - *During Monitoring, the Fort Worth ISD may ID areas that require corrective action or mediation.*
- **Annual Reporting:** operating partners are required to provide a report on their progress toward meeting the academic and financial goals.
- **Renewal:** 12-18 months before the end of an agreement, partners that are in good-standing (progressing toward the terms of their agreement) may be invited to apply for renewal. This enables them to continue their model and in some cases, replicate a successful model to additional campuses.

# Fort Worth

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT