

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:**

**HIGH-QUALITY CHARTER SCHOOL REPLICATION**

**Operators of high-performing charter schools are invited to apply to Friends of Education in order to establish another school.**

Friends of Education welcomes proposals from high-quality charter schools. Please note that the application to Friends of Education is the first step in the replication process. After an initial evaluation of the application, Friends of Education will schedule a site visit and interview with successful applicants. If Friends of Education approves the application, Friends of Education is required by law to submit an affidavit to the Minnesota Department of Education for approval. The then-current affidavit may require additional information not addressed herein, and in completing its review, the Minnesota Department of Education may similarly request additional information.

**REPLICATION APPLICATION FOR HIGH-QUALITY SCHOOLS**

**Due Date to Friends of Education:** November 1st

**Submit to:**director@improvek-12education.org

**Site Visit & Interview:** Completed by February 1st

**Decision by Friends of Education to School**: March 1st

**Requirements:** The application to Friends of Education must provide clear evidence of capacity to establish and operate new schools successfully while maintaining quality in existing schools. A quality application will:

1. **Replicating School(s).** Identify the existing school(s) to be replicated and provide evidence that the existing design has been effective in increasing student learning and achievement. Provide evidence of the success of the academic program as well as organizational and financial viability and show a direct relationship between program elements and student achievement.
2. **Key Components of Academic Program.** Identify the key components of the Replicating School(s) educational program. Discuss the non-negotiable elements of the program that make the school design what it is and that the operator will expect to remain consistent and essential to successful replication of the model.
3. **Population to be Served.** Describe how the target population for the proposed school compares with the population(s) currently being served and the impact, if any, on the program. Describe why the model will be effective and successful in raising student achievement with the applicant’s target population and, to the extent the target population for the proposed school differs from the populations being served in existing schools, explain any anticipated modifications and adjustments to the educational program.
4. **Other Key Features.** Describe any other ways in which features of the proposed school’s educational program will differ from that of the school(s) to be replicated. Explain the rational for the change(s) and any new resources that the variation(s) will require.
5. **Past Replication Efforts.** Describe the results of past replication efforts and lessons learned, including particular challenges encountered, how they were addressed, and how they will be avoided or minimized in the proposed school.
6. **All Existing School Performance.** Provide evidence of the educational, organizational, and financial performance for the most recent three years of all existing schools operated by or affiliated with the applicant, including external audits.
7. **History.** Identify and explain any never-opened, terminated, or non-renewed schools, including terminated or non-renewed third-party contracts to operate schools.
8. **Replication Plan.** Describe the replication plan, including:
   1. **Facility**: Describe how the school will secure a facility.
   2. **Staff**: Describe the school’s staffing plan.
   3. **Demand**: Provide compelling evidence that students will attend the school.
   4. **Financial and Human Capital.** Whether the applicant will need to acquire additional financial and human resources necessary to replicate the design successfully and, if so, describe the plan for securing.
   5. **Governance & Management**: Describe the board, including member names, positions on the board, adequacy of membership (by skill sets in chart form showing experience in charter schools, curriculum, instructions, management, facilities, finance, and law),

Replication Application Evaluation Criteria

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Evaluators will look for: | Meets  Expectations | Does Not Meet Expectations |
| Evidence that the school or model to be replicated demonstrates academic, organizational, and financial success. |  |  |
| Academic: the degree to which the data persuasively demonstrates that the school is improving all pupil learning and all student achievement |  |  |
| Financial: the degree to which the school is financially secure and exhibits no material weaknesses in internal controls |  |  |
| Organizational: demonstration that the school is well-managed and well-governed, and the degree to which the school operates in compliance |  |  |
| A clear, compelling vision for what is being replicated in terms of essential components of the educational program. |  |  |
| A convincing rationale for how the school or model to be replicated will successfully serve the proposed target population. |  |  |
| A strong justification for changing key components of the original school or model in the proposed school. Such a justification should include why the changes will better suit the targeted student population and whether the model is still similar enough to the existing model that comparable successful outcomes are likely. |  |  |
| Evidence of a sound plan for developing the capacity to replicate an existing school. |  | |
| If applicable: evidence of successful past replications or lessons learned from unsuccessful attempts at replication that will increase the likelihood that this replication will be successful. |  |  |
| Clear evidence of capacity to operate new schools successfully while maintaining quality in existing schools |  | |

**ADDITIONAL REVIEWER COMMENTS:**