



LOUISIANA BELIEVE SCHOOL REDESIGN PARTNER

Specialized Support – Organizations which provide technical assistance on specific aspects of a school's operation

1. Partner Background

a. Organization name: Great Minds, Inc.

b. Summarize your organization's mission and its connection to Louisiana's plan for struggling schools

A group of education leaders founded the non-profit Great Minds in 2007 with a mission to define and encourage content-rich comprehensive education for all American schoolchildren. In pursuit of that mission, Great Minds brings school teachers together in collaboration with scholars to craft exemplary instructional materials and share them with the field. Great Minds' *Eureka Math* curriculum has won accolades at the state and national levels, and is the only comprehensive math curriculum aligned to the Common Core State Standards at every grade. It was developed in close consultation with seminal documents drafted by the Common Core State Standards Writing Team, entitled Progressions for the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. Actually a series of papers, these "progressions documents" lay out the structure of the mathematics and research in cognitive development that was the frame upon which the Common Core Standards were built.

With 49 states and over 1 million students using *Eureka Math* to increase student achievement, we have extensive expertise in customizing our support to districts and schools in the implementation of this robust curriculum. We can partner with schools to co-design a plan that can dramatically improve student achievement.

2. Evidence of Track Record of Student and School Outcomes

a. In any format, please illustrate your organization's track record in dramatically improving schools or systems of schools and/or radically increasing outcomes for targeted subgroups of students.

Eureka Math curriculum was piloted in several districts in Louisiana during the 2013-2014 School year with great success. Those districts leading the way with implementation continue to show exceptional growth in math performance by all students. Vermillion and Iberia Parishes are exemplar examples of districts using *Eureka Math* as their core curriculums and are also identified as two of Louisiana's Top Gains School District. After two years of implementing *Eureka Math*, St. John Parish, with 85% of the students from economically disadvantaged homes increased the percent of students scoring Mastery or above on state assessments. The growth at each grade level ranged from 18% to 36% increase from the previous year. Another success story exemplifies the impact *Eureka Math* is having across the state. With approximately 80% of the districts in Louisiana using *Eureka Math*, in 2015, 4th grade students made the second highest gains in math on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Our track record is exemplified in the Louisiana LEAP, iLEAP, ACT and End of Course Assessment data which shows radical jumps in student performance in all students as well the targeted subgroup.

3. Your Organization's Model

a. How will you differentiate your services to meet the unique needs of schools and districts in Louisiana?

Great Minds has extensive experience with providing ongoing professional development resources to support struggling schools and districts in their implementation. These offerings, illustrate the same careful attention to coherence and to the balance of rigor that characterize the curriculum. With our experience, we have crafted a sequence of 15 professional developments to support and sustain successful implementation of the curriculum. This sessions target teachers, coaches and instructional leaders and includes on-site content and grade specific professional development, on-site coaching, as well as digital and virtual professional development. Our team also works to customize our support to the needs of the school or district assuring alignment with the Louisiana Student Standards. Rather than being a one and done style professional development we strive to give districts processes that can be replicated. Growing site based teacher leaders, coaches and instructional leaders in content and pedagogy to insure sustainability.

b. What are the attributes of your ideal partner school or district?

We are prepared to support districts and schools with varying familiarity with *Eureka Math*. We are also will and able to work with any size districts or school.

Ideally, the school or district would have math coach devoted to the development of teachers.

c. Describe your experience working with other third party providers to support coherent school and district improvement.

We have collaborated with The New Teacher Project (TNTP) to support large implementations of *Eureka Math*. They have requested our support in accomplish their mission to insure poor and minority students get equal access to effective teachers.

d. What support from the state, district or school partners would enhance your success in Louisiana?

Provide funds in order to purchase additional resources and print materials for students. Cohort of districts or schools could collaborate quarterly to identify struggles and successes.