

PARTNER PREVIEW GUIDE

The Louisiana Department of Education is hosting a School Redesign Summit on January 19, 2017. This Summit is an opportunity for local district and school leaders to meet with proven partners who have demonstrated success in improving student performance from across Louisiana and across the country. Under the Every Student Succeeds Act, districts will be required to build improvement plans for each of their struggling schools and the Summit will provide an opportunity for districts to brainstorm strategies for their schools. Over fifty organizations applied to attend the Summit and the Department invited 47. In order to help districts identify the partners with whom they would most like to meet, each partner has been categorized into one of the three following categories:

- Operator – Organizations which directly manage the function of the school, bringing in a new model of operation.
- Whole School Design – Organizations which provide a full range of services designed to enhance all aspects of a school's operation.
- Specialized Support – Organizations which provide technical assistance on specific aspects of a school's operation.

Below are brief summaries, sorted in to the categories shown above, provided by potential partners selected to attend the School Redesign Summit. The full RFI response from each provider can be viewed on our website [here](#).

OPERATOR

GEO Foundation

GEO Foundation can provide direction on staff recruitment, development, curriculum, budgeting, and focus.

Green Dot Public Schools National

Green Dot's mission is to help transform public education so that all students graduate prepared for college. We are a school operating organization with 26 high performing public charter schools across three cities - Los Angeles, Memphis and Tacoma. We are exploring avenues to expand our impact so that we can work towards fulfilling our mission and vision.

Harmony Public Schools

Harmony Public Schools is a high performing, nonprofit charter management organization which operates 48 K-12 schools in Texas. Harmony Public Schools focuses on STEM and it is known as the largest network of STEM schools in the country to create college pathway for students from low income families.

IDEA Public Schools

IDEA Public Schools opens and operates high-performing charter schools that prepare low-income students to go to and through college. IDEA has a strong track record of serving students in urban, rural, and semi-rural communities in Texas, and we are interested in partnering with district leaders in Louisiana to determine if and how a charter strategy (either within a single district or across multiple districts) might help to improve student outcomes and school performance

Matchbook Learning

Matchbook learning is focused on turning around the bottom 5% of schools in the nation. We do this work through a competency based design personalized to students and adults and delivered in a blended format.

RePublic Schools

RePublic Computer Science works with schools and districts to design pathways for students to learn and master computer science. With a project-based curriculum that aligns to AP Computer Science Principles from middle to high school and a non-expert dependent teacher training model, RePublic successfully creates a program and space for students and teachers to thrive and master content that is redesigning every industry

WHOLE SCHOOL DESIGN

2Revolutions

Led by former turnaround operators from Mastery Charter Schools and Scholar Academies, 2 Revolutions is providing schools and districts with personalized turnaround implementation support services. We provide tailored coaching and training to school teams to implement our school turnaround blueprint developed from years of experience working in turnaround schools. We will work with schools over a three to five year timeframe to build capacity to effectively operate a previously low-performing school.

Academy for Urban School Leadership (AUSL)

AUSL (Academy for Urban School Leadership) is a nationally recognized Chicago nonprofit school management organization that creates schools of excellence by developing highly effective teachers and transforming educational outcomes for students in the lowest performing schools. The AUSL program is a school intervention model predicated on evidence based practices for teaching and learning, leadership development and support, data management systems, family engagement, and wraparound supports for our most vulnerable students. Through AUSL's Advisory Services, our approach involves partnering with districts. Instead of taking over the operations of a school or leading a turnaround implementation, AUSL will offer tools, training, and support, through a consultative relationship, to build the foundation for Louisiana's districts and schools to support all of its persistently struggling schools.

American Institute for Research

American Institutes for Research is a nonprofit, nonpartisan behavioral and social science research, evaluation, assessment and technical assistance organization. AIR's mission is to conduct and apply the best behavioral and social science research and evaluation towards improving people's lives, with a special emphasis on the disadvantaged. Our capacity building services are grounded in evidence, and our field-based experiences inform our assessment, research and technical assistance activities.

Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD)

ASCD offers K-12 schools and districts research-based professional learning resources (Books, articles, virtual PD libraries) and services. Services include face to face and virtual supports around a myriad of topics (from leadership to social-emotional support). We can offer workshops, key note presentations, coaching, consulting, virtual webinars, etc.

Blueprint Schools Network

Blueprint Schools Network is a national nonprofit organization that promotes educational equity and improves life outcomes for students by partnering with states, districts, and schools to plan, implement, and monitor school improvement initiatives. The foundation of our work is a framework of five core strategies that emerged through analyses of the attributes that drive student achievement and represent common elements of schools capable of closing the achievement gap. Together, these strategies form the foundation of our three distinct and differentiated pathways for

partnering with schools, districts and states: School Improvement Partnership, School Operator and Blueprint Math Fellows academic intervention program.

Diplomas Now

Diplomas Now, a collaboration between Johns Hopkins University's Talent Development Secondary, City Year, and Communities In Schools, is an innovative, multi-year approach to whole-school improvement for middle and high schools. Diplomas Now uses an early warning system to identify students who are off track in attendance, behavior, and course performance in English and math – highly predictive indicators that a student will drop out of high school. Teams of full-time AmeriCorps members and professional staff provide students with individualized academic and social-emotional support, teachers with professional development, school leaders with school organization support and case management for students all to ensure students get on track to high school graduation and college, career, and life success.

Empower Schools

Many efforts to improve educational outcomes either seek to dismantle traditional school systems to make room for new charter schools or attempt to patch existing schools with additional funds, but only minor changes. Empower Schools believes in a Third Way that empowers educators and leaders at the school-level through a 'cluster strategy' called an Empowerment Zone that enables more than one school in a district to operate under conditions of increased autonomy. Empower Schools engages in regulatory entrepreneurship to identify and leverage existing laws and policies to foster conditions for school improvement; design and transition support to provide educators with support partners, tools, and resources to effectively implement new flexibilities; and collaborative community decision-making to ensure local stakeholders have a voice in changes in their community's schools.

Generation Ready

Generation Ready partners with and provides support to K-12 educators to build capacity and raise student achievement so that all students are prepared for success in college and career. We offer highly customized engagements that target the professional learning needs of teachers and leaders. We offer a range of professional learning services in Literacy, Mathematics, and Leadership, and School Improvement.

Generation Schools Network

Generation Schools Network in partnership with Battelle for Kids comes alongside schools, districts and networks of schools to identify and address the most pressing challenges impacting students, teachers and their communities. Following a collaborative diagnostic review process, the organizations bring their expertise to stabilize, support implementation of critical practices and initiatives and help schools move toward innovation and exemplary student performance. Services range from diagnostic review, strategic planning and leadership coaching to schedule redesign, support for quality core instruction, social/emotional learning and college/career readiness using an embedded blended approach.

Institute for Student Achievement

The Institute for Student Achievement (ISA) partners with schools and districts to reinvent high schools so that students who are traditionally underserved and underperforming graduate prepared for success in college. ISA's federally-approved (What Works Clearinghouse), research-based, and evidence-driven model provides the organizational and professional development supports that schools, principals, and teachers need to succeed. ISA's primary solutions include: 1) starting new academies, small learning communities, or schools as part of a district portfolio strategy; 2) redesigning existing high schools to strengthen teaching, enhance social-emotional supports, and develop a college-going culture; and 3) provide

targeted services that focus on one area of school improvement to strengthen ongoing reforms (eg. writing across the curriculum, developing mathematical thinking, school leadership coaching, et al.)

Leading Educators

Leading Educators partners with districts to reimagine systems of professional learning for teachers. After partnering with a district to set up conditions for successful professional learning at schools, we work closely with schools' leadership teams and content leaders (including teacher leaders and a principal or assistant principal) to lead content-based cycles of professional learning that will drive student achievement.

Mass Insight Education

The mission of Mass Insight Education (MIE) is to provide leadership in closing the achievement and opportunity gaps for underserved students to drive college and career success by focusing on system transformation and student academic success. MIE believes that increasing academic achievement and opportunities for students in the lowest-performing schools in our country requires dramatic and fundamental change to the systems in which those schools, and the teachers and students in them, operate. We understand that, to bring about dramatic, systemic, and sustained change, we need to provide both new ideas and data-driven solutions, and create communities of practice and learning in which stakeholders can come together, identify and collaborate around common goals, change practices to ensure rigorous academics, build capacity for systems change and ultimately create living blueprints for changing similar systems.

National Institute for Excellence in Teaching

For over 15 years the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has pursued a mission to increase educator effectiveness using its signature initiative: TAP: The System for Teacher and Student Advancement. The TAP System is a proven, comprehensive school reform model to increase educator effectiveness by providing a rigorous set of teaching standards, embedded professional development, mentoring, clear leadership paths and strategies for rewarding teachers for strong performance. NIET partners with schools and districts to implement the TAP System by providing extensive training and follow up coaching and support to build capacity at both the district and the school level to sustain educator effectiveness best practices that lead to improved student achievement.

New Schools for Baton Rouge

New Schools for Baton Rouge (NSBR) is a nonprofit organization that partners with communities to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend a high quality school. Premised on the idea that students benefit and schools succeed when there is a thriving "education ecosystem", NSBR supports a portfolio of partners - including school operators, talent organizations, university programs, etc. -- that it brings together and coordinates under a shared vision of excellence. NSBR would work with the district to tailor transformation strategy to local need.

Propeller

At Propeller, we drive social, environmental, and economic impact by incubating and accelerating social ventures that have the potential to solve the city's most pressing issues. We believe that Educational Equity is a pressing issue, and we address these challenges by supporting entrepreneurs who have ideas to make changes. Propeller builds Educational Equity in New Orleans by accelerating initiatives to leverage and maximize funding streams for early childcare and K-12 services, launching programming to address triggers for poor academic performance and absenteeism, and creating pathways to vocational education and alternatives to four-year college degrees.

Public Impact

Public Impact works nationally to dramatically improve learning outcomes for all children in the United States via direct school and district support and its Opportunity Culture initiative, now active in 12 districts and over 100 schools. By supporting schools and districts in the selection and hiring process, planning for school turnaround, redesigning staffing models to reach all students with excellent teaching via Opportunity Culture models, and providing implementation supports like school visits and professional development, Public Impact has a history of innovatively supporting districts and school-based teams redesigning low-performing schools and districts to dramatically improve student achievement.

Relay Graduate School of Education

The Relay Graduate School of Education is a national, accredited, nonprofit institution of higher education whose mission is to teach teachers and school leaders to develop in all students the academic skills and strength of character needed to succeed in college and life. Relay has a number of high-impact initiatives that could be attractive to Louisiana districts or schools, including:

- +Training and supporting schools' instructional leaders through Relay's principals program.
- +Preparing and supporting the teachers of record in school classrooms.
- +Recruiting, training, and supporting a cohort of residents (assistant teachers) in those same classrooms.
- +Organizing the literacy and math blocks of the school around Common Core-aligned curricula and support systems, leveraging what we have seen implemented well for low-income students elsewhere.

School Empowerment Network

SEN believes that even the most struggling districts are home to talented educators who, when properly recognized and developed, have great potential to lead transformative change in their schools. SEN employs a rigorous internal search process aimed at selecting for the competencies and mindsets that are prerequisites for success. Once the most promising individuals have been identified, SEN's development program provides direction and support to help them formulate and stay focused on their school leadership vision, and to maintain positive momentum in the face of the inevitable challenges they will encounter in their new roles. SEN also works with school districts to re-design school structures to maximize the impact that new leaders have on their communities. SEN advocates for small schools, Small Learning Communities within schools, and/or the phase-in of a renewed school culture one grade at a time whenever possible. Limiting the size of schools helps leaders dramatically raise the bar for quality and hold community members to renewed standards.

School Leadership Center

The School Leadership Center has a 20 year history of helping schools and school districts improve by focusing on the leadership of the individual school. Through SLC's two years of PD in our Fellows Program and the year long Discovery Walks Program SLC maintains a focus on improved student achievement.

Summit Learning

Summit Learning is a free program that provides support and resources to public schools to bring personalized learning--and the Summit Learning Platform--into their classrooms. The program is designed to help schools implement learning environments driven by (1) cognitive skills instruction through project based learning, (2) competency based content progression, and (3) mentorship and support around long and short term goal setting for students. Schools that participate in the program receive access to the Summit Learning Platform, a fully customizable 6-12 grade curriculum around core classes, various training and ongoing PD experiences, and access to a community of schools around the country engaging in the same work.

Talent Development Secondary

Talent Development Secondary is a nationally recognized whole-school reform organization with more than twenty years of experience in providing evidence-based tools and services that lead to increased cohort graduation rates. Curricular and instructional supports for teachers and students are designed to increase student performance on End of Course exams and tests such as the ACT. TDS' whole school model provides school leaders and staff customized, ongoing onsite support and technical assistance to develop small learning communities implementing data-based instruction and interventions at whole-school, class, small group, and individual levels; TDS also offers stand-alone components of its model on a contractual basis to address specific assessed needs, such as implementing a multi-tiered Early Warning Intervention System.

TNTP

TNTP is dedicated to ending the injustice of educational inequity by providing excellent teachers to the students who need them most and by advancing policies and practices that ensure effective teaching in every classroom. We are a full service school transformation partner working in urban, rural, suburban and charter systems nationwide, providing intensive, on-the-ground coaching and support to give school teams the skills and capacity needed to implement comprehensive solutions that improve school culture, strengthen classroom instruction, and ensure access to the talented staff students need. As a national non-profit of over 400 staff who have a wide array of expertise, we are uniquely positioned to help school and district leaders design solutions tailored to meet the specific needs of the communities they serve.

Transcend Education

Transcend works with school operators across the district, charter, and independent school sectors. We provide and develop world-class research and design capacity that supports visionary education leaders to build and replicate breakthrough learning environments. There is no standard recipe to our projects. Depending on what phase of school modeling you are interested with we can help you build a dream canvas for a new school model, help to design and build model components, codify best practices of innovative breakthrough components and/or help you adopt and adapt key models that we have previously worked with to accelerate more breakthrough schools in our sector.

SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

Achievement Network (ANet)

ANet is a non-profit organization that works to ensure equitable opportunities for all children by supporting teaching and learning grounded in standards, data, and the practices of great educators. ANet's comprehensive partnerships with schools include instructional leadership coaching, professional development, and use of ANet interim assessments and planning tools to accelerate student learning. ANet works alongside school and district leadership teams to strengthen their aligned use of standards, assessments, curricula, and professional learning to get breakthrough results for students.

AXI Education Solutions

AXI Education Solutions is a Louisiana-based education organization entirely focused on empowering the everyday teacher to make incremental shifts in instruction through the use of technology. We support our partner districts in building 21st Century learning environments by seamlessly integrating interactive classroom technology with curriculum, instruction and research-based professional development models to support college and career readiness for every child regardless of social or economic background. As we partner with schools and districts across the state of Louisiana, we focus on implementing technologies that produce effective formative assessment data guiding teachers' pedagogy and eliminating the failure to learn.

Blueprint Schools Network

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City Year, Inc.

City Year supports student and school success by deploying diverse teams of City Year AmeriCorps members to serve full time in high-need schools. These near-peer mentors partner with principals and teachers to provide data-driven, research-based student, classroom and school-wide supports that accelerate students' academic and social-emotional development. City Year's services help students stay in school and on track to graduate from high school by addressing the early warning indicators of attendance, behavior, and course performance in English and math.

College Beyond

College Beyond partners with high schools provide professional development and support to counselors. Our services help counselors increase financial aid applications, college applications, acceptances, and college enrollment numbers post-graduation. We also provide data tracking reports on student enrollment and experiences in college.

Communities In Schools

CIS works inside charter schools and traditional school systems with superintendents, principals, educators, and other personnel to forge community partnerships that bring resources into schools and help remove barriers to student learning. CIS addresses both the total student—physical, psychological, and social needs—and the whole school environment by providing school-wide services and working with a subset of the most at-risk students, who then receive targeted and/or individualized interventions.

Education Resource Strategies

Education Resource Strategies (ERS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming how school systems organize resources—people, time, and money—so that every school succeeds for every student. We are very excited for the opportunity to support Louisiana's struggling schools by helping them create a clear of vision of what it will take for students and teachers to be successful, reorganizing resources around that vision, and supporting the school district to create the enabling conditions to sustain that vision over time. We support cohorts of schools within a district seeking to achieve transformational results to address six key, interrelated resource strategies:

1. Get the right people doing the right things
2. Grow capacity through collaboration
3. Create a culture of high expectations and shared accountability
4. Adopt curriculum and instructional practices aligned to high standards
5. Forge targeted and dynamic learning environments for students
6. Support students' social and emotional needs

EDUTAS

EDUTAS at the University of Oklahoma provides technical assistance and professional development to build the capacity of school district and building leaders, and classroom teachers. Our proven High Impact Technical Assistance Model incorporates needs sensing, collaborative project design and implementation, and evaluation scalability and sustainability elements. School improvement through process and practice redesign is a key focus of our customized work with schools and districts.

Great Minds

Great Minds, a nonprofit, works to define and encourage knowledge-rich comprehensive education for all American schoolchildren. In pursuit of that mission, Great Minds brings schoolteachers together in collaboration with scholars to craft exemplary instructional materials, professional development, and supplemental resources and share them with the field. Great Minds' [Eureka Math](#) curriculum has won accolades at the state and national levels while its new ELA curriculum, [Wit & Wisdom](#), is earning early praise for tapping the power of literature, history and science to meet the expectations of the new standards.

Health and Education Alliance of Louisiana

Achievement and development gaps can be detected in children as early as nine months of age, and these early health and educational disparities often persist throughout a person's lifespan. Coordinated Care for the Whole Child is a model of systematic integration of health and education that will improve academic achievement and attendance, decrease disciplinary issues, and assist with obtaining Medicaid reimbursement for healthcare expenses. The program integrates preventative health screenings with case management for identified needs, multidisciplinary team review of struggling students with integrated health and education data, and sustainable funding to anchor the program through Medicaid reimbursement in an educational setting.

Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a state-based national non-profit organization dedicated to preventing dropouts among young people who are most at-risk. In 36 years of operation, JAG has delivered consistent, compelling results – helping 1.1 million young people stay in school through graduation, pursue postsecondary education and secure quality entry-level jobs leading to career advancement opportunities. Jobs for America's Graduates-Louisiana currently operates in over 100 schools across the State of Louisiana, achieving a 94% graduation rate and 88% positive outcomes rate (students are employed, in post-secondary education or both a full twelve months after graduation) for the Class of 2015.

New Leaders

New Leaders prepares education leaders to deliver breakthrough results in America's highest-need schools and advocate for the conditions that will enable great leaders—and their students—to thrive. Our programs cultivate instructional, adult, personal, organizational, and cultural leadership skills in a natural progression that ensures participants' success in their current roles and as they grow in their careers. We work hand-in-hand with our partners, delivering leadership solutions that build on their strengths and address their priorities.

New Teacher Center

Informed by over two decades of work with hundreds of school districts and state agencies, our research –driven, strengths-based approach improves student achievement, increases teacher effectiveness and reduces teacher churn. NTC works with partners to build, support and sustain results-oriented programs in the areas of teacher induction, instructional coaching and school leadership focused on improving the effectiveness of teachers and school leaders at all levels. NTC integrates College and Career Ready Standards and Social-Emotional Learning content into

all program components including our unique online Formative Assessment and Support System (FAS) that also provides formative data about the program for teachers, coaches/mentors, school leaders and program leaders.

SchoolKit

SchoolKit offers customized, comprehensive professional learning partnerships designed to improve college and career ready instruction. We collaboratively assess the current state of teaching and learning and design and deliver trainings for teachers, school leaders, and district leaders. We assist with implementation of the work over time to build internal capacity and to ensure a powerful impact on instruction.

The LSU Cain Center

The Cain Center offers a variety of tested, customizable programs that were designed specifically to aid rural and urban school systems in comprehensive school improvement initiatives (e.g., the Louisiana Academic Residency for Teachers, the Louisiana Math and Science Teacher institute, and the LSU College Readiness and Dual Enrollment Program).

TrueSchool Studio

TrueSchool empowers educators to design, test, lead, and launch new learning models within their schools. We facilitate our student-centered design process to take school teams from a problem to a tested, effective solution. Through personalized coaching and innovative approaches, we build the enduring capacity of educators and school leaders within their district to lead change and improve schools from within.

UChicago Impact

UChicago Impact's 5Essentials System is a research-based diagnostic assessment of a school's organization and conditions for learning. The data, which come from surveys of teachers, students, and families, are used as evidence to drive targeted school improvement efforts. Our team supports schools to strategically use the data through job-embedded leadership team coaching focused on promoting school improvement.

UnboundEd

UnboundEd, a national non-profit, aims to harness the power of strong standards-aligned instruction to accelerate students not yet at grade-level. We partner with system leaders, school leaders and teachers to select, implement and adapt high-quality curriculum materials, deepen their content knowledge on literacy and math instruction, and support their pedagogical craft.

Urban Learning and Leadership Center

Are you frustrated that your intervention efforts have failed to yield growth in student achievement? The trainers and coaches at the Urban Learning and Leadership Center will work with your district/school leaders to customize an action plan to build on your current strengths while addressing your areas of need with research-based best practices in school leadership and instructional delivery. We have a strong track record in building the capacity of local leadership to increase student achievement for all students, closing subgroup gaps, through a model of school reform called S.A.M.E., a holistic school reform effort built around developing social, academic, and moral structures to support learning for all members of the school community.

Zearn

Zearn Math is a ground-breaking K-5 math curriculum that combines personalized digital lessons with daily targeted small group instruction. Zearn Math is used by over one million students and teachers, was recently rated a Tier 1 curricular resource by the Louisiana Department of Education, and is based on Eureka Math / EngageNY. Zearn Math is created by Zearn, a non-profit on a mission to ensure every child learns and loves math.