



Request for Proposals and Eligibility Criteria

Focus area: District-Governed School Replication

Great Public Schools Now (GPSN) is a new independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate the growth and expansion of high quality public schools while significantly reducing the number of students attending chronically low performing schools in greater Los Angeles. GPSN will support the replication of successful public schools in communities of need, regardless of school governance type (charter, magnet, traditional, etc.). The organization is deeply rooted in the pursuit of educational equity – the belief that every child, irrespective of the zip code they live in, deserves a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career, and life. GPSN has undertaken discussions with potential partners, including the Los Angeles Unified School District as well as leaders in the nonprofit community, to serve students in poverty and communities of color.

GPSN investments will focus on four core areas:

- *Community Engagement across Los Angeles*
- *Supporting Teachers and Leaders*
- *Replication of High Quality Schools – Charter and District-Governed,*
- *Facilities Support for High Quality Charters that are expanding or adding schools*

In the coming weeks, we will continue to issue clear guidelines on all of our investment areas, with the intention of providing grants to a wide variety of schools with diverse governance models. This set of guidelines is focused only on the area of supporting the replication of district-governed (LAUSD) schools.

What is “Replication”?

GPSN is issuing this RFP for investment in up to five projects, to include planning and implementation funding in support of school leaders that have an established record of success serving high needs students (at least 80% FRL) and with a record of high performance, **to do more of what works**. That is, to open a second school, or significantly expand enrollment in their existing program, in order to serve more students in high quality learning environments.

This does not mean ‘new’ designs/programs, or integrating selected practices from successful schools into an existing school, or layering a successful model onto a struggling school as a ‘turnaround’ effort.

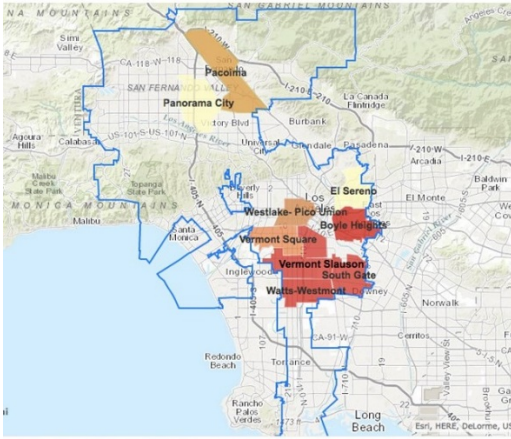
Examples: a successful magnet wants to expand from serving 500 students to 1000 students; a successful magnet in one area of town wants to open a second magnet in a different part of town within our target geographies; a successful pilot or traditional school wants to open a second school.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Geography

GPSN is focused on serving the academic needs of the approximately 160,000 students who are attending schools where 80% of the students do not meet grade level standards (based on 2015 CAASP data). The attached maps show ten geographic areas where students are most economically challenged, and the number of high quality education choices is the least accessible within LAUSD.

GPS NOW Pockets of Need



Sources: California Department of Education, City of LA, KDI, Inc.

1. Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles
2. El Sereno
3. Pacoima
4. Panorama City
5. South Gate
6. South Los Angeles
7. Vermont Slauson
8. Vermont Square
9. Watts-Westmont
10. Westlake-Pico Union

School Academic Performance

GPSN will invest in replicating high quality public *schools that are adding significant enrollment capacity by expanding or adding new campuses*. At a minimum, the achievement thresholds are the following for the prior academic year for which data is available:

- 50% of the students in the existing school met or exceeded proficiency in ELA **OR** Math in the latest CAASPP school wide results, or
- The existing school scored significantly better than charter and district operated public schools that the students would otherwise attend in both Math and ELA, but no fewer than 25% of its students are performing at proficient levels.

Student demographics

GPSN will focus on investing in schools where at least 80% of the students qualify for a Free or Reduced Price Lunch (FRPL).

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

Great Public Schools Now will fund up to FIVE projects in this initial year of funding, with a target opening date of Fall 2017. The selection process and timeline are as follows:

Funding Parameters for District-Governed School Replication – 2017 Round

- GPSN will award up to five **implementation grants** ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 annually for up to three years, based on meeting annual outcomes. The funding difference depends on whether it is an expansion of an existing program or replicating/opening a whole school. GPSN's mission is to accelerate the creation of the greatest number of high quality seats as fast as possible, and therefore projects that will serve a greater number of students will receive higher priority
- **Implementation Grant** applications will be evaluated by an independent Advisory Committee comprised of education leaders in Los Angeles; the Committee will make funding recommendations to the GPSN Board. Final decisions on funding will be made by the GPSN Board of Directors
- GPSN is agnostic about any particular model of governance, programmatic design or labor agreement
- Our aim is to ensure that the projects that advance are genuinely desired by the leaders wishing to replicate
- Grant monies must be allocated as directly to the schools and leaders as possible
- Magnets, pilots, traditional campuses are all welcome to apply
- GPSN will fund schools where leaders will have the autonomy to select and retain their teaching staffs while also staying aligned with state education law and previous agreements.
- GPSN will establish separate processes/funds to support district-governed and charter public schools, in recognition of the very different regulatory processes and logistical hurdles required to open charters, and to ensure equitable access to resources
- GPSN will only fund programs that are non-selective, and enroll SPED and ELL students at rates comparable to LAUSD averages.

In order to support applicants more fully, GPSN will fund up to five **Planning Grants** of \$20,000 to assist school teams in securing time to prepare applications, hire professional support, or support community outreach efforts. The instructions for submitting an application for a planning grant are included below. ***Schools that do not receive a planning grant may still submit a full application for an implementation grant, if they meet the eligibility criteria and follow the guidelines for the full application, that will be published on November 21.***

Timetable

September 29, 2016
Request for Proposals

Replication of District-Governed High Quality Schools
Great Public Schools Now

- September 29, 2016 Announcement of RFP, Guidelines and Timetable
- October 28, 2016 Applications for initial **planning grants** of \$20,000 due
- November 21, 2016 Selection of five planning grants announced
Guidelines for full proposals issued
- February 15, 2017 Full **implementation grant** proposals due
- March 1, 2017 Advisory Committee reviews applicant projects
- March 15, 2017 (tentative) Funding decisions announced for five selected projects
- April 1, 2017 (tentative) Release of Implementation Grants
- August, 2017 Selected projects open

PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Please submit the following required information no later than close of business on October 28, 2016, to: mcastrejon@greatpublicschoolsnow.org

- School Name:
- Primary Contact Information:
- GPSN Focus Region (as identified above):
- Current School Address:

Current Enrollment Data

	Existing program	2016-17	New Program	2017-18	2018-19* if scaling enrollment
Number of students					
Grades served					
% Eligible for Free and Reduced Price Lunch					
% English-Language Learners					
% SPED					

Academic Data: Please provide your school-wide CAASPP results (all tested grades, % rated proficient or better) for the past two years. If you also complete other testing (e.g., MAP testing), provide those results for two or more years.

2014-2015		2015-2016	
ELA	Math	ELA	Math
%	%	%	%

Other Academic Information:

*If a high school, graduation rate and percentage of students completing A-G requirements, graduation rates and college admissions rate (if available)

Application Narrative

1. **Program Design** – Please describe in no more than two pages what the replicating school’s focus is, how students are supported to succeed, and how replication will be achieved (describe whether this is an enrollment expansion at an existing program, or a whole new campus) and what key steps you will take to ensure that the replication is successful and why; please focus on the specific **outcomes** you use as your best indicators of success and how you will achieve similar results in the replication program. At GPSN, we believe there are many paths to excellence and success – winning proposals will focus on results rather than inputs, and an assessment of how likely winning proposals will be to achieve success
2. **Key Personnel** – Please describe briefly the qualifications of the school leaders to lead the planning and design process; please attach all relevant resumes
3. **Demonstrated need/interest** – Please describe briefly how you will ensure that there is strong need/community support for the proposed program, and how you will demonstrate community engagement through the planning process (cite waiting lists for existing program, survey information, or community support for this effort)
4. **District support** – Please describe what steps you are taking to ensure LAUSD support for your proposal
5. **Budget** – Please outline line-item expenditure details for how you will utilize the \$20,000 planning grant – allowable activities may include but are not limited to teacher release time, community outreach activities, hiring a consultant to help with writing the full application.