



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Great MN Schools is committed to tripling the number of students in Minneapolis attending high-performing schools to 10,000 by 2022. We're inspired by schools that are proving every child can succeed, and we're committed to ensuring that more students have access to these great schools. By making strategic investments in high-performing and high-potential schools and providing the expert guidance, funding and resources they need to succeed, we can help successful schools expand, support improvement strategies for schools that show promise and partner with struggling schools committed to dramatic transformation.

Great MN Schools (GMS) requests proposals from organizations with demonstrated effectiveness and experience in supporting schools through a process of improvement, including evaluation, planning and ongoing support.

### Great MN Schools Good-to-Great Support

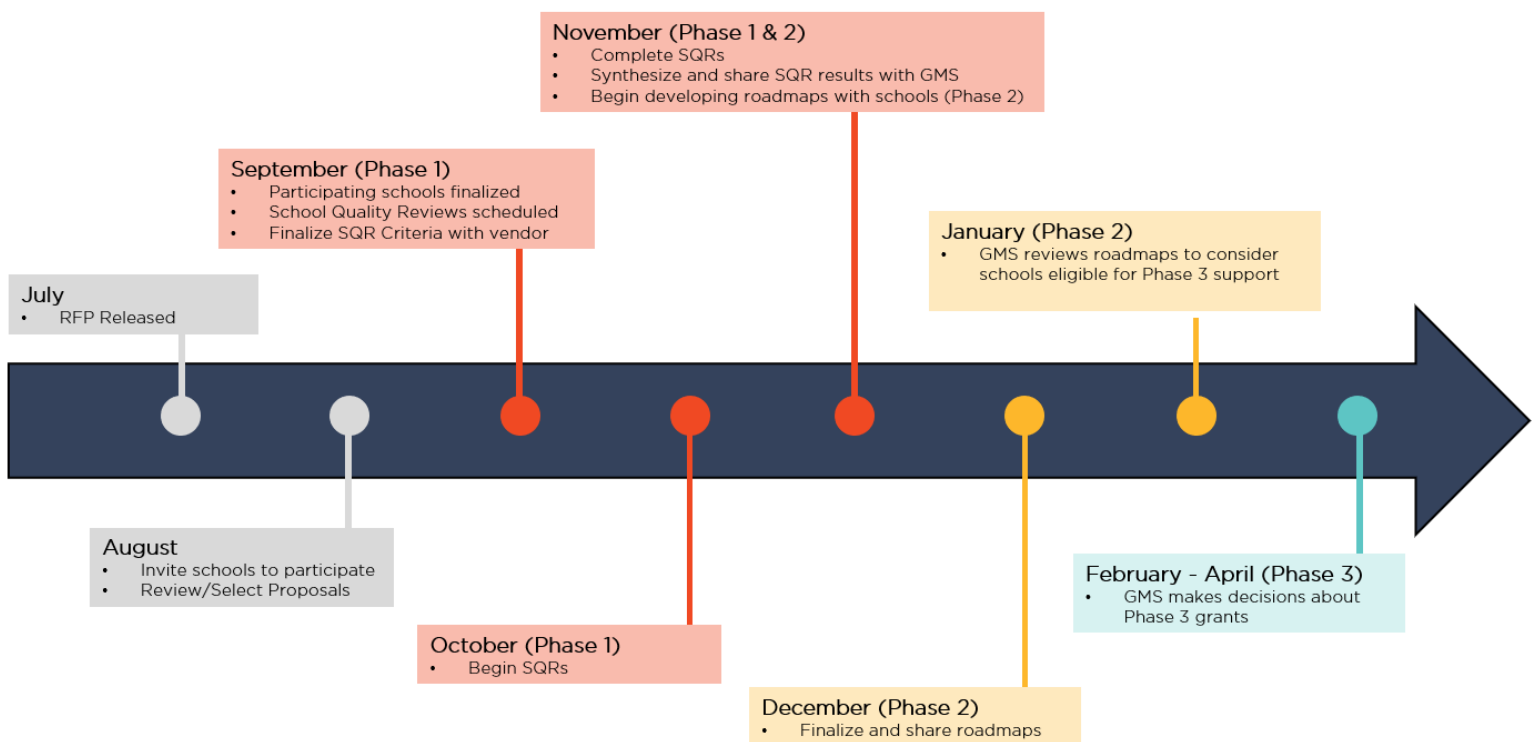
Great MN Schools is working to ensure more low-income students and students of color have access to schools that are closing the opportunity gap. To date, our work has focused on expansion of high performing schools, school turnaround, new school support and technical assistance supports for promising schools, to help them improve. To accelerate the number of high performing schools in Minneapolis, we plan to launch an investment strategy that will focus on schools that are currently seeing success (as demonstrated by achievement data), in their efforts to move from good to excellent. We want to also deepen our supports for our current portfolio schools, and plan to leverage the support structures of this effort for some of our other portfolio schools.

Great MN Schools supports schools across all sectors – district, charter and independent – and anticipates that schools funded through this effort will represent all sectors, with a focus on district and independent schools. To anchor the due diligence process, and ensure we are funding those schools best positioned for success, we are looking to launch a diagnostic and planning process for potential grantees. To ensure success of this portfolio strategy, we want to also launch intensive leadership coaching that will support schools in the implementation phase of the multi-year investments.

### Services to be performed:

- **Phase One:** Design criteria for and execute School Quality Reviews (SQRs) for up to 10 schools, to determine strong recipients with the capacity to implement change, and anchor school improvement plans. Criteria should include key levers for impact such as: leadership, staff development, school culture, curriculum and instruction, community engagement, and operations. Vendor may be asked to do additional SQRs for schools outside of this investment review process.
  - **Deliverables:**
    - Detailed report of findings from SQR for each participating school which outlines the opportunities and needs based on criteria laid out in diagnostic

- **Phase Two:** Partner with the SQR schools to develop a multi-year roadmap to guide their execution of an improvement plan. Roadmaps will be grounded in findings from the Phase One SQR, and include success metrics for each year, clear action steps and resources needed.
  - **Deliverable:**
    - Comprehensive plan & budget for support informed by findings from SQR, for each school
      - Includes approach for aligning with existing school-level partnerships or vendors (i.e. coordination of support to leader)
- **Phase Three:** Provide direct support to G2G schools in the form of intensive coaching focused on needs highlighted in the Phase One SQR and Phase Two plan. Coaching frequency and structure may vary dependent on need but may include up to 3 hours per week for a school leader for the full school year. Coaching support will also be provided to some GMS expansion portfolio schools and potentially schools that participated in SQR process but were not selected for multi-year investment.
  - **Deliverables:**
    - Management of executive coaching support (including training and ongoing professional development needs)
    - Measurable progress toward outcomes outlined in Phase Two roadmap



## Proposal Guidelines

Providers are invited to submit a proposal to support Phase One and Two only, Phase Three only, or all three phases

### Proposal must include:

- Detailed description of your organization’s mission, background, and experience
- Detailed description of the proposed support (for each phase you are applying to support) based on articulated goals and service needs including:
  - Phase One:
    - SQR design that outlines data collection process and sources
    - SQR Criteria and/or rubric
    - Proposed sources of data collected for SQR (e.g. school visits, parent focus group)
  - Phase Two:
    - Articulation of elements in roadmap and process of consulting with school leadership teams to develop roadmaps
  - Phase Three:
    - Proposed process to identify, train and manage coaches.
    - Details about potential vendor team (number of individuals supporting the work and bios)
- Proposed process for engaging with GMS team throughout course of project, including progress check-ins and metrics of engagement success
- Total budget for the proposed services with specific line items for each category
- References and examples of prior work related to the phase(s) you are applying to support

**Note:** If your organization envisions a better design process to support the goals articulated, we encourage you to submit a proposal that articulates your proposed process. Please include the proposal elements articulated above.

All proposals must be received by July 27, 2018. For questions and submission of final proposal contact Melissa Long at [mlong@greatmnschools.org](mailto:mlong@greatmnschools.org) or (612) 432-6720.