



**THE DISCOVER, DESIGN, DEVELOP SCHOOLS (D3)**  
**PROJECT APPLICATION QUESTIONS**  
*Fiscal Year 2018*

**Please note that ALL Innovation Fund grant applications must be submitted through the Innovation Fund's online application site, <http://innovationfund.fluidreview.com>, by May 3, 2018.** GOSA will not accept applications submitted in any other format (mail, email, etc.) or after the submission deadline. The following document provides the application questions for your reference only.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**I. Applicant Information**

- a. School District
- b. School District Address
- c. Superintendent
- d. School Name (if applicable)
- e. School Address (if applicable)
- f. Federal Employer ID Number
- g. Contact Name
- h. Contact Role
- i. Contact Phone
- j. Contact Email/confirm email
- k. Alternate Contact Name
- l. Alternate Contact Role
- m. Alternate Contact Email/confirm email
- n. Alternate Contact Phone

**II. Project Information**

- a. Project Name
- b. Priority Area Addressed

**III. Priority Points**

If your school or district is eligible for priority points, please check which description applies to your school or district. Please note, applicants will only receive priority points for one category.

- ☐ On the Turnaround-Eligible Schools List (**7 points**)
- ☐ High-Need Rural School/District (**5 points**)



### SECTION I. WHAT IS YOUR IDEA? (8 POINTS POSSIBLE, 10% OF TOTAL SCORE)

1. Briefly describe your idea for a program. *(250 words)*
2. What problem is your program trying to solve? How do you know it is a problem? *(300 words)*
3. What do you think is causing your problem? Why? *(300 words)*
4. Describe how your idea will address the problem and its cause(s) as described above. *(300 words)*

### SECTION II. ALL ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL OR DISTRICT (8 POINTS POSSIBLE, 10% OF TOTAL SCORE)

1. Describe your school/district, including its strengths and challenges in the following categories: *(500 words)*
  - a. School or District Leadership (turnover and quality)
  - b. Positive Learning Climate
  - c. Academic Achievement
  - d. Wraparound Services
2. Describe the accountability measures your school/district employs in the following areas: *(300 words)*
  - a. Academic Achievement
  - b. Positive Learning Climate

### SECTION III. WHO IS INVOLVED? (8 POINTS POSSIBLE, 40% OF TOTAL SCORE)

Describe the team that will participate in the D3 Schools Project? *(500 words)*

In your answer:

- Provide evidence that the school or district leader chosen to participate has actual decision-making power.\*  
*\*Decision making power means that this person directly supervises principals or other school administrators.*
- Describe each individual's role/experience within the school or district and why each individual was selected to be on the D3 Schools Project team.

*\*Please note, as part of this section, each member of the team must upload a **Statement of Commitment** indicating the extent to which s/he will participate in the D3 Schools Project.*



**SECTION IV. OTHER QUESTIONS (8 POINTS POSSIBLE PER QUESTION, 10% OF TOTAL SCORE PER QUESTION)**

1. Your team has stumbled upon a magic formula for school-transformation. When you apply the formula, your school or a school in your district will instantly become one of the state's top-performing schools. Describe the school after you have applied the formula. **(500 words)**
2. What is the biggest obstacle to all students achieving academic success? Why? **(250 words)**
3. What's the most helpful piece of critical feedback that your team has received from a student or students which you did not agree with? Why didn't you agree? How did you respond to this feedback? **(500 words)**
4. Briefly address the scenarios below. **(300 words per scenario)**
  - a) Over 50% of the teachers in your school or a school in your district have admitted they are not comfortable teaching mathematics. The school's mathematics test scores demonstrate a weakness in this area. However, your school district uses both mathematics and literacy test results to determine your school's academic success. Briefly describe how your team would address this situation.
  - b) Ruffner Academy has struggled since it opened in 2012. In 2017, only 19% of students were performing on grade level in English language arts (ELA), and only 31% of students were on grade level in math – placing Ruffner Academy among the lowest-performing schools in the entire county. In addition, since 2012, the school has had a new principal each year, and forty percent of its teachers have left. Ruffner Academy staff and families have worked hard to improve the school. These efforts have included working with teachers to better support high-need students and facilitating community outreach activities. Unfortunately, these efforts have not improved your students' academic achievement. Briefly describe the steps your team would take to address the continued low performance.