School Turnaround Pilot Program
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Project Background

In 2024, the [Ohio General Assembly passed Senate Bill 168](). Among the provisions included in the legislation is the School Turnaround Pilot Program. The Turnaround Pilot seeks to expand services available for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. The legislation requires:

1) The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to establish and administer the five-year School Turnaround Pilot Program to address chronic low performance in school districts and community schools, and establish a school building selection process.
2) The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to approve one or more eligible external service providers to partner with districts, schools, community school sponsors, and State Support Teams (SST).
3) The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to select up to 15% of CSI buildings from at least five (5) different SST regions.
4) The Ohio Department of Education and Workforce to conduct an annual evaluation of the program.
5) Participating districts, community schools, and approved service providers to report data regularly to the Department.

Each school district or community school that elects to participate in the program shall choose a single service provider approved by the Department to conduct a needs assessment, develop a multi-year improvement plan, and ensure the implementation of evidence-based interventions to improve academic achievement in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics..

Service providers will collaborate with school districts and community schools to ensure that services and interventions are aligned with identified needs and will recommend system-wide improvements to the Department.

The Turnaround Pilot's data collection and reporting may include:
- Pre- and post-intervention comparisons of student and adult performance outcomes for schools in the pilot program;
- Data on if the interventions increased student and adult performance enough to meet

Department of Education & Workforce

Pilot program success criteria;

- If data from the interventions did not meet success criteria, how could the interventions be improved to meet success criteria; and
- Identify whether improvement plans developed as part of the Pilot can be replicated in schools that are not part of the Pilot.

Scope of Work

In partnership with the district and school teams, the service provider must create and submit to the Department a **school turnaround plan** (within 3 months of the start date), which contains:

1. **Needs Assessment and Improvement Plan:** Recommended changes to the current One Needs Assessment (ONA) and One Plan (OP) for the participating schools, including updates to:
    a. The root-cause analyses from the ONA, the evidence-based improvement strategies selected in the OP, and the measurable student and adult outcomes from the OP; and
    b. A professional development plan that identifies strategies to address problems of instructional practice, and a leadership development plan focused on strategies to turn around the school.
2. **Resource Analysis:** An analysis of grant funding for state and federal grants, including a resource allocation review examining revenue streams available at the local, state, and federal levels.
3. **Monitoring Progress:** A description of how progress will be monitored and assessed, how data on progress will be communicated and reported to stakeholders, and what the timeline for implementation will be for the school turnaround plan.
4. **Data Collection:** An explanation of how data will be collected and analyzed for the school, including data on the achievement, personnel, culture, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, governance, leadership, finances, and policies of the school.
5. **Recommendations**: Recommended changes compliant with state and federal law to the school's culture, curriculum, assessments, instructional practices, governance, finances, policies, or other areas based on the data collected.
6. **Assessing Impact**: An assessment plan that will monitor the effectiveness of the school turnaround plan through various means of evaluation, including, but not limited to, on-site visits, observations, surveys, analysis of student achievement data, and interviews.

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

7. **Professional Learning and Coaching Support**: A description of the high-quality, job-embedded professional development and coaching that will grow the leadership capacity of the school principal, the instructional capacity of the school staff, and the collaborative practices of teacher and leadership teams.
   a. The plan must provide the principals of the selected schools with job-embedded professional learning and coaching at least twice per month during the school year, focusing on strategies to improve the school's performance.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The Department shall approve one or more eligible external service providers with expertise in school improvement to partner with districts, schools, community school sponsors, and State Support Teams in the area. The external service provider must have:

- A credible track record of improving student academic achievement in public schools with various demographic characteristics, as evidenced by statewide assessment results;

- Experience designing, implementing, and evaluating data-driven instructional systems in public schools;

- Experience coaching public-school administrators and teachers on designing and implementing data-driven school turnaround plans;

- Experience collaborating with the various education entities that govern public schools;

- Experience delivering high-quality professional development and coaching in instructional effectiveness to public school administrators and teachers;

- Experience analyzing school funding at the local, state and federal level, including the ability to perform a comprehensive resource allocation review; and

- The ability to travel to a participating school regardless of the school's location.

Application Procedures

APPLICATION TIMELINE
- Service providers will be selected via a comprehensive review process no later than May 2025. Funding for the school turnaround pilot program will be awarded to districts and schools no later than the beginning of fiscal year (FY) 2026.
- Any questions regarding the application process must be submitted in writing to School_Improvement@education.ohio.gov no later than April 7, 2025.

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

APPLICATION SUBMISSION METHOD

- Applications should be emailed to School_Improvement@education.ohio.gov no later than 11:59 pm on April 7, 2025. Please attach to the email all relevant materials.
- The email should be entitled: "School Turnaround Pilot Program Application."

EVALUATION PROCESS

The Department will conduct a technical review to ensure that applications are complete. Applications missing one or more required narratives and/or appendices or submitted after the established deadline will not be scored.

The Department will select a team of not less than three (3) qualified reviewers to score each of the application elements. Application components will be rated using "0" to "4" scoring range. Applications must receive a minimum of 75% of the total possible points for approval. Applicants will be notified via email if their submission for participation in the School Turnaround Pilot Program is approved.

The Department may permit applications scoring less than 75% to apply in subsequent application windows.

Ohio Department of Education & Workforce

Application Template

Applicants must complete all sections of the application. A template including all components is available on the RFQ webpage. Completed applications will include the following sections:

Part 1: Vendor Information

All applications will include a completed application template that includes vendor information and references. References include a minimum of three (3) relevant client references should be included within the application. Include client names, addresses, contact names with emails and phone numbers, dates of service, and type(s) of service(s) provided. Client references should include state or local education agencies that you have partnered with in the past five years to provide similar services. Please explain if a state or local education agency terminated their contract with your organization early.

Part 2: Evidence of Qualifications

Each service provider must meet the following requirements to receive approval to participate in this project. Applying organizations must submit evidence of:

1. A demonstrated track record within the most recent five years of improving student academic achievement in public schools with various demographic characteristics, as evidenced by statewide assessment results. This description must include:
   a. Any program evaluations that positively impact adult and student achievement.
   b. Evidence with concrete, specific, and quantitative metrics, in addition to qualitative descriptions.
   c. If applicable, independent research studies demonstrating effectiveness.

2. Experience designing, implementing, and evaluating data-driven instructional systems in public schools.

3. Success with coaching public-school administrators and teachers on designing and implementing data-driven school turnaround plans.

4. Successful collaboration with the various public schools' governance structures.

5. Experience delivering impactful, high-quality professional development and coaching in instructional effectiveness to public school administrators and teachers; and

6. Experience analyzing school funding at the local, state and federal level, including the ability to perform a comprehensive resource allocation review.

Responses to the items above should address alignment with Ohio's Academic Learning Standards for English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. If making reference to literacy initiatives, be sure to articulate how the services align to the Science of Reading and Ohio's Plan to Raise Literacy Achievement.

Department of Education & Workforce

Please provide, as an appendix ([Appendix A](#)), documentation and/or evidence to support your descriptions (above).

Part 3: Appendices

Documentation for both appendices should not exceed 50 pages in total

APPENDIX A: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Please provide adequate documentation and/or evidence to support your responses to the requirements above.

APPENDIX B: OTHER

Include other relevant supporting documentation that does not fit into the above appendices.