

GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS LOCATED IN ORLEANS PARISH AND PARTICIPATING IN ONEAPP

BREAKTHROUGH SCHOOLS: NEW ORLEANS PERSONALIZED LEARNING **\$2 MILLION IN GRANTS AVAILABLE THIS SCHOOL YEAR**

Round One Proposals are due September 15, 2014. Winners will be announced in October.

WHAT IS PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Personalized Learning (PL) seeks to accelerate student learning by tailoring the instructional environment—what, when, how, and where students learn—to address the individual needs, skills, and interests of each student. Students take ownership of their own learning, while also developing deep personal connections to each other, their teachers, and other adults.

OVERVIEW OF GRANT PROGRAM

Educate Now! and New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) have partnered with Next Generation Learning Challenges (NGLC) to launch *Breakthrough Schools: New Orleans*, and is seeking schools interested in exploring, piloting, and/or implementing whole-school PL models in New Orleans. Between 2014 and 2017, *Breakthrough Schools: New Orleans* expects to distribute approximately \$6 million to support the redesign of schools in New Orleans. This year's funding will entail two rounds:

Round 1

Grant opportunities ranging from \$10,000 to \$66,000 will be available in Fall 2014 to prepare schools that are interested in further exploration or in whole-school implementation. Grant funding will be issued to schools interested in any of the following:

- Further **EXPLORATION** of Personalized Learning;
- The development and implementation of a yearlong Personalized Learning **PILOT**; or
- The creation of a **WHOLE-SCHOOL MODEL PL PLAN**.

Free technical assistance will be provided to all grantees.

A Request for Proposals has just been released for the exploration, pilot, and planning grants, and can be accessed here [INSERT LINK TO NSNO PAGE]. *Applications are due September 15, 2014.*

Round 2

Four Implementation Grants of up to \$300,000 will be issued in early 2015 to schools ready to transition their current academic model to a fully personalized design.

A Request for Proposals will be released in the fall for these first implementation grants.

Both Round 1 and Round 2 grant opportunities are available for Orleans Parish charter schools participating in the OneApp enrollment system within one year of grant award.

BACKGROUND

In January 2013, Educate Now!, in collaboration with the Booth-Bricker Fund and Baptist Community Ministries, launched the *New Orleans Blended Learning Proof Points Strategy* to support the seeding and

scaling of blended learning in schools across New Orleans. These local organizations and New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) have now partnered with NGLC to found *Breakthrough Schools: New Orleans*, a grant competition open to charter schools eager to explore, pilot, and implement whole-school learning models that personalize learning for students. *Breakthrough Schools: New Orleans* will join five other regional competitions in: Chicago, IL; Colorado; New England; Oakland, CA; and Washington, D.C. This national initiative of breakthrough schools is supported by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation, and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation

Breakthrough Schools: New Orleans builds on the Proof Points Strategy and incorporates key elements of the highly successful NGLC national competition that has supported more than 70 new or redesigned schools since its launch in 2011.

CONTACT

For more information about this opportunity, please do not hesitate to reach out to Alyse Utley of New Schools for New Orleans, alyse@nsno.org or Cate Swinburn of Educate Now!, cateswinburn@gmail.com.