Investing in Innovation (i3) Fund
Application for Partnership with Chicago Public Schools

**Deadline:** Completed applications must be emailed to [i3@cps.k12.il.us](mailto:i3@cps.k12.il.us), attached as .doc documents, by 5pm CST on **3/29/10**.

**Format:** Applications must be completed on the attached two-part form. Responses to Part 2 must not exceed 5 single-spaced pages. Margins should be set at 1”. Please use a font that is 11 pt.

**Selection Process:** Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is looking for strong partners with competitive ideas. If your responses to Part 1 of our application meet CPS and federal requirements, we will then score your responses to Part 2 on a 100-point scale (10 points per question). You will receive one additional point for each Competitive Preference Priority checked in Part 1. CPS will collaborate with partners who submit the highest scoring applications and sufficiently complete the selection process. Additionally, potential partners should note that CPS will not provide grant writing capacity and the district expects to work collaboratively with its partners to develop the most comprehensive and competitive application possible.

**Pre-application conference call:** Please submit your questions to i3@cps.k12.il.us by 3pm CST on March 23, 2010. Questions will be addressed during the March 24, 2010 conference call at 11am CST (details to follow); FAQs will be made available. CPS encourages all potential partners to attend the Department of Education’s (DOE) pre-application webinar or workshop as indicated in the federal RFP.

http://www.fsaregistration.ed.gov/profile/web/index.cfm?PKwebID=0x9192363b1&varPage=agenda

**Notification of Partnership:** CPS will select partners and notify all applicants via email no later than **4/12/10**. While we will make application scores available, we may not be able to provide further comments on individual applications.

**Questions:** Please submit all invest in innovation questions to i3@cps.k12.il.us. Our application for potential partners is aligned with all requirements noted in the federal RFP (http://www2.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/announcements/2010-1/031210d.html). For more information, please consult the Department of Education’s site:

http://www2.ed.gov/programs/innovation/index.html

CPS will not accept applications that are incomplete or that are not submitted in the proper format by the deadline noted above. All proposed projects that involve CPS schools, even if the applicant is a consortium of CPS schools and not the district itself, must submit applications through this process.

Please note that the district recognizes the short timeline provided by us in response to the DOE’s Invest in Innovation RFP. We strongly encourage all potential partners to continue their regular grant development process while they await final communication of partnership status from CPS.

CPS appreciates your patience, participation and respect for our process as outlined above and in the following pages.
### Application Part 1: Applicant Information

**Applicant Organization** (name, contact person, email, phone):

**Applicant Eligibility** (federal requirement)
*What evidence can you provide that you have a record of significantly improving student achievement, attainment, or retention through your record of work with an LEA or school(s)?*

**Funding Category** (federal requirement)
*Please carefully consult the federal RFP for further guidance on the three funding categories.*

- ___ Development ($5M) – programs that propose a “reasonable hypothesis”
- ___ Validation ($30M) – programs with “moderate evidence”
- ___ Scale-up ($50M) – programs with “strong evidence”

**Absolute Priorities** (federal requirement)
*Please select only one, even if your project addresses multiple priorities.*

- ___ I. Innovations that Support Effective Teachers and Principals
- ___ II. Innovations that Improve the Use of Data
- ___ III. Innovations that Complement the Implementation of High Standards and High-Quality Assessments
- ___ IV. Innovations that Turn Around Persistently Low-Performing Schools.

**Competitive Preference Priorities** (one point each)
*Check all applicable competitive preference priorities:*

- ___ V. Innovations for Improving Early Childhood Learning Outcomes
- ___ VI. Innovations that Support College Access and Success
- ___ VII. Innovations to Address the Unique Learning Needs of Students with Disabilities and Limited English Proficient Students
- ___ VIII. Innovations that Serve Schools in Rural LEAs.

**CPS Priorities** (CPS requirement)
*CPS is looking for applicants who understand our guiding principles and meet our internal priorities. Check all applicable priorities:*

**Guiding principles:**

- **Strategic alignment with district priorities:** The district will selectively work with a group of partners that provide ideas and opportunities that reinforce the priorities of the CEO, CEO and Board of Education *(see below).*

- **Transparency and accountability:** CPS has instituted this competitive process to improve the transparency in its partnership process since i3 partnership opportunities will be limited.

- **Inclusion:** CPS strongly encourages the inclusion and support of women and minority business enterprises.

- **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) compliance:** All partners are expected to comply with all ARRA and CPS related reporting requirements as outlined in a contract or sub-grant agreement as necessary. Requirements include but are not limited to the reporting of jobs created/retained monthly.
### Internal priorities:

- **Human capital:** CPS is committed to strengthening our human capital capacity by focusing on the entire relationship spectrum for teachers and leaders, from recruiting to selection, onboarding, talent development, improving talent reward strategies and broad-based employee solutions.

- **Professional development:** CPS recognizes the tremendous impact that having strong teachers and leaders has on student achievement. The professional development of our teacher and leader teams is a critical and over-arching aspect of the district’s strategy.

- **Performance management:** CPS is committed to improving the use of data to positively impact student outcomes. Useful data and information systems will be developed and revised to better measure student attainment and growth, and interim assessment systems will be built to better inform instruction in the classroom. Additionally, we encourage the use of technology as an enabler to assess student attainment, to provide instructional support and interventions to students, and to capture and disseminate relevant information to key stakeholders (including students, teachers, parents and administrators).

- **Turning around and transforming our lowest performing schools:** CPS is committed to turning around and transforming our lowest performing schools with the appropriate interventions that improve both the academic and socio-emotional climate of the school.
Application Part 2: Proposed Program Information (10 points each)

1. **Need for project.** What are the major problems/needs that this grant will address, and what documentation and data are available to prove the existence and extent of the problems/needs generally and as it related to CPS? How will this project improve the academic achievement of (all/a cohort of) CPS students?

2. **Current approach.** What services/programming are currently being provided in this area? What is your organization's current role or involvement in providing these services? What are the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps of these services? What evaluation information do you have to verify the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps? Also, please note any current interaction/partnership with CPS.

3. **Project design.** Taking your needs and services into consideration, what makes your proposed project unique and innovative? What are your ideas for the proposed project? What major activities do you propose?

4. **Strength of research.** What is the research/best practice basis for your proposed activities? Has a similar project been implemented at CPS, in similar LEAs or elsewhere? What evaluation information exists about these projects? Please confirm that the data you plan to use is readily available and meets the criteria for the identified funding category.
   
   (Note: i3 funds are only offered for programs that have been previously tried, with some evidence of success. Funding levels will depend upon established degree of program validity. Please refer to the federal RFP for additional information.)

5. **Partnership.** List all proposed partners and their roles noting the distinction between “LEAs”, “official” and “other” partners as identified in the federal RFP.

6. **Significance of effect.** How many students/teachers/other school-based staff will be impacted by this proposal? What are the measurable and objective outcomes sought? Does the program have the potential to be brought to a larger scale after the grant period?

7. **Capacity.** Describe your capacity to implement the proposed program and how it will fit within your organization’s current structure.

8. **Sustainability.** How can this project be financially and programmatically sustained beyond the grant period?

9. **Matching.** What is your idea/process for securing 20% matching funds as noted in the federal RFP?

10. **Grant development.** What is your plan for developing the proposal? Describe your staff’s experience and success with writing federal grant proposals.