



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

OFFICE OF SCHOOL INNOVATION, School Turnaround Office, Room 481 EBA
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December 16, 2011

Superintendent Robert Young
Geneva City School District
400 West North St.
Geneva, NY 14456

RE: Award Notice: School Innovation Fund – RFP #TA-05
Amount: \$2,499,295
Time Period: January 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014

Dear Superintendent Young:

The New York State Education Department, School Turnaround Office (NYSED STO) is pleased to inform you that the Geneva City School District has been awarded a grant for its plan for the dramatic redesign of Geneva High School through the School Innovation Fund (SIF). The projected 2.5-year amount of this award is \$2,499,295. The Full Service Geneva High School is one of five innovative projects that will be funded through this initial round of the SIF. As stated in the RFP, this award is contingent on the provision of targeted training on Education Law 3012-c during 2011-12, and agreement to fully implement the provisions of Education Law 3012-c during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 grant periods.

The NYSED STO will serve as your lead program office for project oversight, assistance, monitoring, and reporting. Within the next several weeks you will be contacted by a representative from NYSED STO to set up an initial welcome and introduction telephone call. In the meantime, in order to ensure that the project begins with the necessary information, resources and supports for success, we ask for your attention to a few key items:

1. Identify your leadership team

Please complete the enclosed form identifying the names and contact information of the leadership team that will be responsible for project planning, implementation, and direct communications with NYSED. The leadership team should be composed, at a minimum, of the school-building leader, key external partner contacts, and a fiscal contact.

Please submit this form to sifgrant@mail.nysed.gov by January 5, 2012.

2. Make arrangements to attend the initial orientation meeting

The initial orientation meeting for the School Innovation Fund is scheduled for Monday January 30, 2012 at NYSED in Albany, NY. This orientation should be attended by the key members of the leadership team, as identified above. Please make the necessary travel arrangements for this team to attend in January.

3. Review reporting requirements and key submissions for project period one

Enclosed with this letter is a brief overview of the mandatory requirements for completion and reporting during project period one. This includes the completion and submission of a performance agreement and Memoranda of Understanding between your district and key partners by July 1, 2012. While more specific information and guidance will be given upon initial contact and orientation, it is not too early to begin discussion, planning, and implementation of these requirements with key partner organizations.

We look forward to working with you and your leadership team on this innovative opportunity to improve student achievement through bold and dramatic whole-school redesign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Donovan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Owen Donovan, Coordinator
School Turnaround Office

enc.

c: S. Bachofer
STO Team

Geneva City School District – Geneva High School
“Foundations for College and Career Readiness” Whole School Redesign
School Improvement Fund Proposal Narrative

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Geneva City School District and its sole high school, the Geneva High School will engage in a radical whole-school redesign that dramatically differs from the previously existing comprehensive educational program within the school. The whole-school redesign “Foundations for College and Career Readiness” is a comprehensive, systemic, and aligned set of actions that will create a dramatic difference at Geneva High School. These actions include: a new governance structure that includes our partners: University of Rochester, Sylvan Learning, and Edure Professional Development; a new principal; new curriculum which is aligned for content, skills, and assessment; an emphasis on college and career readiness; a dramatic increase in academic time and academic enrichment to include an Extended School Program, to include virtually programs for credit accrual and credit recovery, summer and Saturday programs; a reorganization of our instructional staff composition into student focused teams starting with a newly design 9th grade academy; a new student culture which will have the expectation that everyone is preparing for college or a technical certification; and robust wrap-around services which will reduce learning barriers for our students and support parental involvement in their child’s education. This comprehensive effort to redesign our education program has been planned over the past year through the efforts of our Joint Intervention Team (JIT) and our Strategic Planning Team (both attached at Tab V).

It is important to note that Geneva High School will become a Tier III schools effective September 1, 2011. Geneva High School will become a Title I school as evidenced by the provision of Academic Intervention and Supplemental Education Services that will be funded through our Title I funding at the high school. Geneva High School was identified as a SINI school in restructuring (year 1) due to not meeting AYP for secondary ELA for students who are economically disadvantaged and not meeting AYP for graduation for students who are African Americans, students with disabilities, and students who are economically disadvantaged.

A. GCSD has developed a compelling mission statement that defines the purpose of the school which is:

“Geneva Schools will educate and graduate all students with the essential skills and knowledge to live lives of consequence.”

In addition, we have a compelling vision that describes what we expect to achieve: “The vision for the Geneva City School District is every student matters and every student knows it. We embrace and celebrate self-discipline and excellence in academics, the arts, athletics, and community service. Our shared experiences with diversity cultivate lifelong understanding and acceptance. Respect, integrity, and fairness foster our safe learning environment. Our innovative educational opportunities provide choices which inspire students to achieve their greatest potential. Our community takes pride in the achievements and graduation of every student. Our students are empowered to live lives of consequence.”

Our key partnership organizations include our partner consortium of the University of Rochester, Editure Professional Development, and Sylvan Learning, Our supporting partners include Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Finger Lakes Community College, the Boys and Girls Club of Geneva, Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes, Ontario County Youth Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Finger Lakes Health, Success for Geneva's Children, and Geneva Reads, Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES, Ontario County Workforce Development, and Dental Provider.

B. Describe the school's key design elements and unique characteristics and other unique characteristics of the program.

We have redesigned the Geneva High School (GHS) to increase high school graduation, college persistence, and college graduation rates by increasing the availability of new high quality seats for students at most risk for dropout, disengagement, and poor academic performance. The key design elements include the development of a full-services community school which has "Wrap around services" to include a family resource center, community services, medical/dental services, mental health services, and social and emotional learning. The school will significantly increase the school day for students who are not meeting standards with 2.15 extra hours for the 180 school days, 32 Saturdays, and 5 weeks during the summer. The Extended School Program will include a PM School as an alternative to suspension, credit recovery, college level courses through FLCC and HWS, tutoring through Sylvan Tutoring Services, SAT preparation, College Essay writing courses. In addition to this we will implement a transition to and through 9th grade through the implementation of a credit bearing summer school between 8th and 9th Grade, a 9th Grade Academy and an Individual Learning Plan. Professional development and program development for teachers will be offered through Hobart and William Smith College (HWS) and Editure Professional Development. Professional Development will focus on offering college level programming through collaboration with Hobart William Smith Education and English department and implementation of a school wide instructional model, curriculum alignment to new common core standards and college/career readiness standards and integration of literacy across the secondary curriculum with support from Editure. Program changes during the instructional day will include increases in Gemini and AP course offerings, guest lecture series through HWS in which college professors would instruct high students at GHS and on HWS' campus. Saturday and summer programs will include site visits to colleges and programs on campus; Sylvan to provide on-site tutoring at GHS.

C. Connection between this particular school and the larger district strategy and approach to district and school redesign.

The Geneva High School is the capstone school for the Geneva City School District. As a small district we have one K-2 elementary school (West Street), one 3-5 elementary school (North Street), and a middle school (Geneva Middle School) which are all feeder schools for GHS. The Joint Intervention Team plan and our Strategic Plan which formed the assessment for this proposal took a comprehensive look at the entire district. Specifically there are actions such as support from the University of Rochester on district Strategic Planning for large scale school improvement, and coaching for district administrators that are occurring district-wide

that are aligned with this proposed effort. Also, there are specific actions we will take in our other schools to ensure students are better prepared for our redesigned high school and eventual college and career readiness. These actions; which will occur with local funds, will include: improved credit accumulation, content and standards integration in middle school curriculum, training in technology integration, and a pervasive culture that believes every student can and will achieve college and career readiness.

D. Partner organization capacity to effectively launch, oversee and govern the school:

Three consortium partner organizations to include: The University of Rochester, Editure Professional Development, and Sylvan Learning will work collectively with an “in-district” team to provide direction, coordination, oversight, and overall development in the areas of portfolio management, human capital development, site-based governance, site-based budgeting and financial services, facilities, instructional and non-instructional planning and implementation. Organizations that comprise the consortium must be directly related to the school-design framework being proposed. At least one member of the Partner Consortium must have experience and evidence of success in managing a school change process. Additionally, an applicant may identify any number of supporting external partners that are considered to be critical to the successful design and implementation of the school.