



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

An Invitation to Present at the 61st Annual Fall Conference of the Council of the Great City Schools in Cleveland, OH

Urban schools have shown remarkable progress in the past few years; test scores are up, attendance rates are improving, and more students are taking college entrance exams. We invite you to submit a proposal for a 10 minute presentation on what's working for you to improve academic achievement for all students through efforts in one of the following areas:

- **Improving Achievement and Closing Gaps in Urban Schools**
- **Urban School Professional Development**
- **Urban School Finance**
- **Urban School Leadership and Governance**
- **Bilingual Education Programs in Urban Schools**
- **Special Education Programs in Urban Schools**
- **Other Initiatives**

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR PRESENTATION

It is our intent that the Annual Conference serves the membership by providing a forum for the presentation, consideration, and discussion of the needs of urban education. This year discussion groups and concurrent breakout sessions will be arranged to facilitate the exchange of information around increasing academic achievement in urban schools.

We invite you to submit a proposal for presentation that addresses how programs, initiatives and/or practices in the areas of closing achievement gaps, professional development, finance, leadership, and bilingual and special education programming are aligned and related to making a difference in improving academic achievement for all students. We are especially interested in receiving proposals that provide clear, convincing data that the program/initiative is effective in raising achievement and closing gaps between students in core academic subjects, such as reading, mathematics, science, and social studies. You may submit more than one program for presentation.

The title and the 75-100 word description should summarize and accurately reflect the content of what you are proposing for the session. As you develop your proposal, think about real and concrete results, what your urban colleagues most want to know, and how your session can be interactive and involve conference attendees in the session.

PRESENTER ELIGIBILITY

The Council asks that all proposals be approved by the appropriate district superintendent and/or college dean in order to be considered for presentation. Please be sure to check the appropriated box on the application form to confirm that the submitted proposal has been approved.

Additionally, we do not allow for-profit consultants, businesses, or organizations to make presentations at the conference. If one of our member districts would like to submit a proposal that speaks to a vendor's product, we will consider the proposal. If such a proposal is accepted, the presentation must be done by a staff member from the district and representatives from the company may not be on the panel.

PRESENTATION FORMAT

The format for presentations is one of concurrent sessions. Each session will include a panel comprised of one or more presenters from different districts or colleges of education or partner organizations presenting on similar topics. All concurrent sessions will be held on **Thursday, October 19th and Friday, October 20th**. Each session will run for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes. **Presenters are to limit formal presentations to approximately 10 minutes.** This will encourage discussion between the panelists and participants and maximize sharing of important ideas and information. All rooms will be arranged in conference-style to facilitate discussion.

ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **April 7, 2017**. The receipt of all proposals will be acknowledged by e-mail within a week of submission. All correspondence will be sent to the presenter(s) acknowledged in the submitted proposals. Accepted and declined proposals will be acknowledged via e-mail by June 23, 2017.

STRAND DESCRIPTIONS

Presentations should be designed to help participants:

- Become more knowledgeable about quality programs and practices that promote student achievement
- Develop a deeper understanding of the principles for effective teaching and learning for all students

Priority in selection will be given to proposals that provide clear and convincing data demonstrating that the program/initiative is effective in raising student achievement.

1. **Improving Achievement and Closing Gaps**

This strand seeks proposals about research-based practices and interventions that are having an impact on learning in the core content areas, systemic levers that accelerate academic performance, effectiveness of accountability systems, and practices that can close the significant achievement gaps existing along racial, ethnic, gender, and economic lines.

2. **Urban School Professional Development**

Proposals submitted under this strand might address how different approaches to the recruitment, preparation, induction, and retention of qualified teachers, principals, and school site leaders have impacted student achievement. Of particular interest are proposals addressing methods for evaluating the effectiveness of professional development and individual teachers on student achievement.

3. **Urban School Finance**

Among the key issues that might be addressed in this strand are managing finances to deal with federal, state and local budget cuts, equitable distribution of funding, cost beneficial ways to allocate district resources to boost student achievement, and meeting special education costs.

4. **Urban School Leadership and Governance**

Critical topics that proposals in this strand might address are the recruitment and preparation of personnel for leadership roles, expanding the capacity of building leadership, role of board members, community relationships, and models of effective urban governance and management systems.

5. **Bilingual Education Programming**

Proposals in this strand might include programs that successfully improve student achievement, especially for recent immigrants, older students and long-term ELLs, comprehensive assessment strategies, and the development of curriculum that impact ELL student achievement.

3. **Special Education Programming**

Proposals in this strand might include programs that successfully improve student achievement, especially for students with mental, emotional and physical disabilities, comprehensive assessment strategies, and the development of curriculum that impact special education student achievement.

Please submit your proposal online at www.cgcs.org by April 7, 2017