



**TOLEDO BOARD OF EDUCATION  
TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
FOR  
CONSULTING SERVICES FOR  
STRATEGIC PLANNING STUDY**

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Dr. Romules L. Durant, Superintendent/CEO

[www.tps.org](http://www.tps.org)

February 2014



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## **Introduction**

The Toledo Board of Education seeks proposals from qualified persons or firms to provide consulting services in connection with the development of a strategic plan that will guide the District over the next ten (10) years. Working with the Board, the Superintendent, other school district officials and members of the community at-large through the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, the successful proposer will lead the process for the creation of the TPS Strategic Plan, and present it to the Board for consideration and adoption by July 1, 2014. The Plan will identify and describe a pathway that permits the District to achieve its mission "to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity."

## **The Toledo Public School District**

The Toledo Public School District is located within the City of Toledo, Ohio, the fourth largest city in the state with a population of approximately 290,000. The District is governed by a five member Board of Education whose members are elected by the voters to serve four-year terms. The District's current enrollment is approximately 21,000 students. The current configuration of the school system is as follows:

- Forty-one (41) Elementary Schools with enrollment ranging from 300-400 students per school
- Six (6) Traditional High Schools; (550-1450 students per school)
- Two (2) Academy High Schools; (200-275 students per school)
- Two (2) Pre-Schools; (200-300 students per school)
- One (1) Alternative Location; (150-225 students)

The Board has adopted the following Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Commitments:

### **Mission Statement**

Toledo Public Schools' mission is to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity.

### **Vision Statement**

Toledo Public Schools strives to be an "A-rated" school district whose graduates are college and career ready.

### **Core Commitments**

#### ***TPS Will Be Student-Centered***

District-wide decisions and operations will be built around the best interest of the students.

#### ***TPS Will Use Accountability-Based Management***

Maintain an accountability system that will have a direct impact on student growth.

#### ***TPS Will Build Stronger Relationships***

Continue to strengthen and broaden the relationships TPS has with all stakeholders and local organizations while working to establish full community inclusion.

### ***TPS Will Be Technology Oriented***

Maintain a technology-based environment that meets the needs of the new digital age, which consists of current and future students.

### ***TPS Will Follow A Rigorous Curriculum***

Continue to research best practices and offer relevant professional development that aligns with 21<sup>st</sup> century national and state standards, thus ensuring students gain the competitive skills required to succeed in a global economy.

### ***TPS Will Develop a Culture of High Expectations***

Establish a district-wide climate and belief system that all students, staff and schools have the ability to achieve EXCELLENCE.

## **Scope of Services**

Working with the Board, the Superintendent, other school district officials and members of the community at-large through the Board's Strategic Planning Committee, the successful proposer will lead the process for the creation of the TPS Strategic Plan, and present it to the Board for consideration and adoption by July 1, 2014. The Plan will identify and describe a pathway that permits the District to achieve its mission "to produce competitive college and career ready graduates through a rigorous curriculum across all grade levels by implementing Ohio's New Learning Standards with fidelity." The Board expects the successful proposer to:

- Review and understand current status of TPS' Mission, Vision, Core Commitments and the current state of the TPS Transformational Plan as fundamental components of a Strategic Plan
- Meet with District staff and community stakeholders to obtain input;
- Incorporate Performance Audit recommendations and Performance Audit Advisory Panel structure into the Strategic Plan.
- Include timelines in the Strategic Plan for the achievement of specific goals and objectives in the near-term (1 to 2 years), mid-term (3 to 5 years) and long-term (6 to 10 years).
- Describe the implications of the Strategic Plan's recommendations on academic achievement, budget, infrastructure, facilities, and transportation as well as the impact upon the community at-large.

## **Format Required**

Proposers should provide the following information in the order listed below:

1. A letter of transmittal, not to exceed two pages, briefly describing the firm's qualifications, including past projects of a similar nature the firm has undertaken for public and private organizations and the individual(s) who will perform the services.
2. A detailed description of how the firm intends to undertake the project identifying milestones keyed to dates that permit the process to be completed and a Strategic Plan adopted by July 1, 2014.
3. Examples of strategic plans the firm has previously developed for public or private organizations. Confidential or proprietary information may be redacted.
4. A budget that identifies fees and expenses, with a "not to exceed" maximum cost.
5. At least three (3) references the District may contact to discuss the firm's work on prior projects of a similar nature.
6. Any additional information the firm deems relevant.

## **Method of Selection**

The Board will select the firm that best demonstrates its ability to create the District's Strategic Plan that incorporates the elements identified in this Request for Proposals in a timely manner within the Board's stated budget for the project. Following its review of proposals, the Board will select one or more firms for interviews. The Board reserves the right to select any firm it deems to be best qualified, or to reject all proposals, the Board will be guided by the following general criteria:

- Prior successful experience in developing strategic plans and similar organizational/governance documents for public and private entities;
- Understanding of urban public school districts in Ohio generally, and TPS specifically, including the legal, contractual and financial environment in which the districts operate;
- Extent to which the proposal clearly identifies and responds to the required elements of this RFP;
- Reasonableness of proposed budget; and
- Quality of interview.

In compliance with Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Toledo Public School System does not discriminate in any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation or disability in establishing and implementing hiring and employment practices and establishing and providing school activities and educational programs. The Board has adopted policy DJCA respecting minority contracting which is available on the District's website, [www.tps.org](http://www.tps.org). Proposers are expected to understand the policy and indicate whether it will include minority participation in the project.

TPS is a public school district operating under the laws of the State of Ohio. TPS will have no liability to any firm or person unless and until a Board-approved contract is entered into which meets all legal requirements.

**Deadline for responses is Friday, March 7, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.  
Deliver 1 electronic copy with 8 paper copies to:**

**Dr. Romules Durant, Superintendent/CEO  
Toledo Public Schools  
420 E. Manhattan Blvd. – Room 100  
Toledo, OH 43608  
[rdurant@tps.org](mailto:rdurant@tps.org)**