

Colorado Department of Education School Redesign RFI:  
Charter Management Organizations, Networks and Schools

**Organization name: STRIVE Prep**

<b>Summary</b>
<p>STRIVE Preparatory Schools (“STRIVE Prep”) is a charter management organization that currently serves 3,600 students in 11 schools at the elementary, middle and high school levels with 91% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch and 97% identifying as students of color. All of STRIVE Prep’s schools are currently in Denver. Strive Prep has a track record of success including 8 of 11 schools being blue or green on the Denver School Performance Frameworks. STRIVE Prep’s application indicates they are willing to work in the Denver metro area and “other regions if conditions are appropriate.” The application provides clear information regarding their educational model, strategies for community engagement and processes for opening up new schools and partnering productively with school districts.</p>

<b>Application Question</b>	<b>Completed Sufficiently? (Yes, No, Partially)</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Describe your organization’s mission and educational model. Describe how your model meets the needs of historically underserved students (students living in poverty, English language learners, and racial/ethnic minority students).	Yes	STRIVE Prep clearly describes their mission and educational model. STRIVE Prep was founded more than ten years ago “on the belief that every students should have access to a high quality education right in their neighborhood.” STRIVE Prep’s student body of approximately 3,600 students consists of 91% of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch, 97% of students identifying as students of color, 49% are English language learners and 14% are on an Individualized Education Program.
What do you anticipate would be the greatest challenges making your educational approach successful at a turnaround	Yes	STRIVE Prep notes its prior experience with turnaround at two of their campuses - STRIVE -

<p>school or as a new school in a new community, and how would you go about working to address those challenges?</p>		<p>Lake and STRIVE- Kepner and also details research it has completed with other organizations that have been successful at turnaround. It acknowledges that every community is unique and that STRIVE Prep would need to be intentional and responsive to each communities' needs.</p>
<p>When considering operating a school in a district that you have not operated in before, what would be the key aspects or conditions of an agreement you would need to have in place with the district (or authorizer) in order to make your school successful?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>STRIVE Prep has only operated in Denver Public Schools. STRIVE Prep would need explicit agreements around transportation, enrollment, facilities, purchased services, special education services, waivers, phase in/out of grades to be served, administrative fees and equitable revenue sharing.</p>
<p>Please describe your action plan for engaging with local communities. How might the charter network, management organization or school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage with parents, community members, school and district staff and leaders, and local school board members to design a school that meets the community's needs and has community support?</li> <li>● Address the varied funding models found in different districts?</li> <li>● Address the unique authorizing requirements and policies of different districts?</li> <li>● What do you perceive would be the likely differences in districts other than the ones you currently work with?</li> <li>● How would you approach facility acquisition in other districts?</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>STRIVE Prep has a strong belief that "students should not have to leave their communities to get an excellent education." STRIVE Prep is intentional about soliciting feedback from the community and holding "listening sessions to better understand community needs." STRIVE Prep further details steps the leader will take to ensure regular communication with the community and the plan also explains their comprehensive family engagement program called STRIVE Together.</p> <p>Before committing, STRIVE Prep would work to understand revenue available and once available, prepare a budget. STRIVE Prep indicated it "would likely fundraise for the higher costs associated with school turnaround" and that "past fundraising efforts have proven</p>

		successful.”  All of the sub-questions are addressed concisely and thoroughly in the application.
<b>Evidence of Track Record of Improved Student and School Outcomes:</b> Please illustrate your organization’s track record in dramatically improving schools or districts and radically increasing outcomes for targeted groups of students. Include a description of the criteria and the data that you use to determine the impact of your work. Please highlight the context and location of where this work has occurred. Formal research studies are preferred, if available.	Yes	The application highlights the strong academic growth and overall performance seen at STRIVE Prep describing accomplishments from local data to CMAS to graduation rates.

<b>References</b>	
Are there three references listed?	Yes
Comments about references	The provided references are appropriate and include current partnerships. CDE will be contacting references and notes from those calls may be requested by districts. However, CDE strongly encourages interested schools and districts to reach out to the references on their own.