



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Prioritized Expert Partners for the Next Generation School Improvement Grant

In the 2021-2022 academic year, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) debuted the Next Generation School Improvement Grant (Next Gen SIG) to provide funds to local education agencies (LEAs) that demonstrate a strong commitment to transforming the traditional educational experience into one that more strategically aligns to students' academic and personal needs. Next Gen SIG provides grants on a competitive basis to support the planning and implementation of transformational plans in one or more schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and/or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI).

Next Gen SIG aims to encourage and support school transformation plans that:

- Engage and empower a school community (families, educators, community leaders, employers, etc.) to inform and influence the educational experience to align with student needs most effectively.
- Rethink governance structures to shift authority over critical decision making over time/schedule, personnel/human resources, fiscal/budget, and programs/curriculum down to the school community level.
- Secure, through external partners or demonstrated internal capacity, the expertise necessary to successfully design and implement a comprehensive school/system transformation plan.
- Demonstrate a commitment and belief in the ability for all students to achieve by setting clear performance benchmarks that put students on a trajectory to live a life of choice and opportunity.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, IDOE sought out prioritized expert partners that demonstrated a strong commitment to a transformative vision for the schools in the Next Gen SIG program. These partners also had a theory of change that prioritized rigorous analysis, partnership, and commitment to systemic reform over one-size-fits-all or pre-planned interventions and/or solutions.

The current list of prioritized expert partners selected by IDOE is not an exclusive list and organizations are still eligible to serve as an expert partner with a Next Gen SIG recipient. However, Next Gen SIG applications listing an expert partner outside of the prioritized list will be required to provide a strong justification for the selected expert partner.

IDOE intends to facilitate a new RFI for expert partners in no more than two years to potentially update the list of prioritized expert partners. Organizations are eligible to apply to that RFI regardless of the determination in this round.



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The current prioritized expert partners selected by IDOE are as follows:

Company Name	Address	Contact Information
Empower Schools, Inc.	9 Menlo Street, Boston MA 02135	Sarah Robb, srobb@empowerschools.org 269-720-7226
SkyBound Education, LLC.	601 S Meridian St, Suite 1L Indianapolis, IN 46225	Adam Jones, Founder & CEO adam@skyboundededucation.com 317-650-8330

Please contact [Georgia Watson](#) with any questions.