Colorado Department of Education School Redesign RFI Evaluation Rubric 2019-20: Management Partners – New Submission

Organization name: **University of Chicago Network for College Success**

Overall Recommendation: **Approved as a school redesign provider in the following areas: Instructional Transformation, Talent Development, Culture Shift**

Summary
The University of Chicago Network for College Success (NCS) provides partial management for high schools in the areas of instructional transformation, talent development and culture shift. NCS provides professional learning, coaching, and data analysis that guide high school improvement efforts. The organization specializes in supporting both schools and districts to translate research into improved practice. In particular, NCS has a focus on creating school-level systems to help high school students persist through graduation and go on to postsecondary success. It is a nationally recognized provider of Freshman OnTrack professional learning and data analysis.

Question	Quality of Response? (Strong, Adequate, Developing)	CDE Description of Response
Identify which of the following roles your organization can serve (list all that apply): ● Full management: Whole system (school or district) ● Partial management: Instructional transformation ● Partial management: Talent development ● Partial management: Culture shift ● Partial management: Leadership training ● Other	Adequate	Instructional transformation, talent development, culture shift

Is your organization's primary interest and area of expertise in school-level management, district-level management, or both?	Adequate	Both
How will you differentiate your services to meet the unique needs of schools and districts in Colorado, especially those with historically underserved students?	Adequate	NCS will start with a needs assessment and identified project scope in order to target the development of professional development or service implementation. NCS has "an explicit and intentional focus on educational equity and so all services will incorporate an equity lens to better serve Colorado's historically underserved students." NCS included the guiding principles for their services, developed to make sure that their support is successful for adult learners and reflects best practices / latest research.
When considering partnering with a school or district that you have not partnered with 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?	Adequate	NCS has found that it is most successful working with schools that: • Are committed to the partnership at the unit-of-change level • Understand the need for both technical and adaptive change NCS will develop a clear communications plan and will work with the school or district to articulate clear goals and objectives.
Describe your experience working with other third party providers to support coherent school and district improvement.	Adequate	NCS described several complex, multi-state collaborations, including with Stand for Children, the RISE Network (CT) and the CORE District (CA).
Describe your experience, if any, working with Alternative Education Campuses (AECs) or alternative high schools.	N/A	Not a particular competence of NCS, but its services would lend themselves to this context.
Describe your experience, if any, working with online schools.	N/A	No experience
Capacity: Does your organization currently have the capacity to serve additional schools and districts in Colorado? If yes, please indicate how many new schools or districts your current capacity would allow for. If no, please explain what additional capacity you would need to put in place, and any other constraints such as	Adequate	Reviewers did not note any capacity concerns. NCS is able to take on 6-8 additional districts or schools at this time.

timelines or minimum participating schools or districts.		
Evidence of Track Record of Improved Student and School Outcomes: Describe 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. Highlight the context and location of where this work has occurred. **Note:** To receive a "strong" rating, this response must include evidence tied directly to the program or service for which the organization is applying. To receive this rating, the response must also go beyond perception or process data to include concrete outcomes, such as improved teacher retention rates or improved student achievement data on state assessments or valid, normed interim assessments.	Adequate	NCS provided academic performance data, in particular, for the schools it has worked with in Chicago. Results indicate increases in on-track to graduation rates and high school graduation rates. Client satisfaction and changed educator behavior data are also presented.
Evidence-Based Intervention: Self-assess the evidence base for the interventions your organization provides using the following Evidence-Based Intervention (EBI) tiers. Which EBI tier best describes your work, and why?	Adequate	NCS is currently undergoing an external evaluation. Therefore, for now it identifies as having a Tier 4 evidence base. NCS does present its logic model, and self-reports that its "professional services and supports have resulted in sustained school improvement, increased educator capacity, and improved student outcomes for over a decade."

Tier 1 – Strong Evidence	Supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented randomized control experimental studies.
Tier 2 – Moderate Evidence	Supported by one or more well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental studies.

Tier 3 – Promising Evidence	Supported by one or more well-designed and well implemented correlational studies (with statistical controls for selection bias).
Tier 4 – Demonstrates a Rationale	Practices that have a well-defined logic model or theory of action, are supported by research, and have some effort underway by an SEA, LEA, or outside research organization to determine their effectiveness.

References	
Are there three references listed?	Yes
Comments about references	Average reference rating, on questions (scale 1-5): **4.7** Average "How likely are you to recommend this partner?" (scale 1-10): **10** "Their practices and research base have helped our partner schools and district improve Grade 9 on-track and college readiness rates."

Reviewers Comments about Best-Fit Schools and Districts
Reviewers recommend any school/district wanting to engage in high school improvement. Their perception is that NCS is willing and able to dig into instructional and organizational changes specifically to drive improved outcomes for students in and beyond high school.