

## Transportation Infrastructure School FAQ's

(as of October 10, 2018)

### Purpose of the School

#### **1. What is the SEED School of LA County (SEED LA)?**

A college prep public boarding school for career readiness in transportation infrastructure, STEM, and the humanities.

#### **2. What population will SEED LA serve?**

SEED LA will serve 400 students in grades 9-12 and is open to all students, but will target students who have faced tremendous adversity. The final enrollment criteria and preferences will be decided with the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) and Los Angeles County partners, but we anticipate that students eligible to attend SEED LA will meet eligibility criteria such as:

- live within the County of Los Angeles
- family income below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines
- family experience with housing instability
- qualify for Title IV-B dollars
- history of contact with the child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems through the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services or Probation Department

NOTE: In Los Angeles County, 28,000 youth are in the foster care system, 10,000 youth are currently on probation or incarcerated, and 77,146 students are experiencing homelessness.

#### **3. How has Metro influenced the SEED LA curriculum?**

SEED has agreed to the following Educational Philosophy: Industry-Aligned College Prep and Career Education through the Five E's:

- Exposure (9<sup>th</sup> Grade):
  - Students will be introduced to and exposed to college & career opportunities in the transportation infrastructure industry
- Exploration (10<sup>th</sup> Grade):
  - Students will explore college & career options in the transportation infrastructure industry focused on research, development, & evaluation
- Engagement (11<sup>th</sup> Grade):
  - Students will engage in college & transportation infrastructure career pathways & the social & environmental impacts of global transportation infrastructure needs
- Experience (12<sup>th</sup> Grade):
  - Students will experience careers in the transportation infrastructure industry through internship programs, including Metro's Transportation

Careers Academy Program for 12<sup>th</sup> graders & the Metro Internship Program for college & graduate students

- Employment (Graduation & beyond):
  - Leveraging their experience in transportation infrastructure internship programs, SEED LA graduates will be prepared for careers in the global transportation infrastructure industry.

**4. A boarding school model is expensive. State foster care grant dollars are moving away from a group (boarding) home model. Isn't there a less costly way of investing in education without a boarding school?**

For high-performing students with stable home and community environments, a traditional school may be all they need to reach their full potential. But for many students who face challenges in the classroom, their community or at home, a more comprehensive 24-hour support model is needed. For thousands of children, a boarding school program is exactly what they need to succeed.

This is similar to the “pay for success” or preventative model that has been championed by the County Board of Supervisors, where they pay for preventative services knowing that if these youth don't change life course, they will cost the County more in the long-term.

The SEED Foundation has made the public boarding school work in three locations: DC, Baltimore, and Miami.

Structure of the SEED School

**5. Is the SEED School going to be a Charter School?**

Yes, the SEED School is a public charter boarding school. Specifically, it will be a countywide charter school through the LACOE which will allow us to draw from students across the entire county versus being limited to one school district. LACOE is the nation's largest regional education agency and directly serves the at-risk populations that the school plans to enroll.

**6. What is SEED's track record on graduation rates?**

*Of note: more than 80% of SEED students are low-income, first generation, college-bound students yet they beat the odds with SEED. 90% of SEED 9<sup>th</sup> graders graduate from high school compared to 45% of foster youth in California graduating from high school. 92% of SEED graduates enroll in college and they graduate at three and a half times the rate of low income, first generation college students nationally.*

**7. Are SEED employees subject to collective bargaining?**

Currently, there are no unions at SEED schools but SEED does not prohibit collective bargaining. SEED is amenable to agreements with local school districts and attempts to have a positive working relationship with such stakeholders.

## Funding Philosophy

### **8. Metro already approved \$1 million in pre-development costs. What is it for?**

The predevelopment budget for the SEED School is \$3.6 million, to be funded (\$1 million from Metro, \$1 million from LA County, and \$1.6 million from SEED). The Metro contribution will go towards the architectural and engineering work to design the project, environmental assessments, and administration (including support of the development of the charter) during the predevelopment phase of the project. (see Attached for more info). The fund source for the pre-development costs is Prop A, Prop C, and TDA.

### **9. How is the construction of the school being funded?**

The constructions costs are envisioned to be financed with tax credits, and a portion of the operating subsidy (they are estimating that \$2.25M of the \$10M total operating subsidy required) would be used to pay the debt service. This is very affordable financing.

### **10. How much is the longer term operating subsidy commitment? How does Metro plan to fund it?**

The operating subsidy commitment from Metro is anticipated to grow from \$3.5 million the first year, when there are approximately 100 students enrolled, and grow incrementally each year until the school is fully enrolled with 400 students in year 4 of operation. At that point, \$5 million will be required for year for the subsequent 11 years for a total subsidy of \$70 million - \$75 million.

A capital stack or tiered approach is the Metro plan. The first tier is to receive external workforce development grants – state and federal; followed by the second tier -- philanthropy; followed by the third tier - Metro funds for workforce development, if needed.