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Buffalo's "Out of Time Schools"—The Proposal Process

For those interested in keeping Bennett High School, Lafayette High School, East High School and Martin Luther King Schools within the Buffalo District, the proposal process is comprehensive and complex. The request for a proposal (RFP) lays out the detailed responses that must be included. General areas are curriculum and instruction, school culture and climate, parent involvement, student assessments and school-wide data, professional development, student recruitment, special education and ELL. There must be proof that the community will be engaged and that all constituent groups have been part of the process. Special note is made of including the District's Unions in the development to insure that the terms of the bargaining agreements are met or modified with approval.

Further, the RFP clearly states that any phase-in must be so innovative as to change the culture of the school from a failing model to a standard of excellence. Evidence must be presented that demonstrates a record of success in educating diverse and impoverished students. The needs of ELL and students will disabilities must be met at the same high standards.

Without question, the preparation of a proposal is a rigorous, demanding task. With the arrival of the deadline for submission on December 12, the District will have a clearer picture of the options for the future of these schools.