

Founders Program

6-Steps from Plan to Launch



Spreading Hope seeks to partner with founders planning to launch a God-centered school in under resourced communities in or near a major U.S. city. We believe there are not enough private God-centered schools serving low-income students, and that God can raise up a new

generation of visionary leaders to lead new God-centered schools for children of the city. As Russ Gregg says, “**Sometimes an inner-city school is the last place you’d expect to find hope, but hope in God changes everything!**”



Once setting an identity for the school is complete and a leader has begun to make the enterprise a real endeavor, they can consider entrance into the Spreading Hope Founder’s program. At that point, a leader should have generated sufficient clarity and concreteness for what was once a dream and is now becoming

an enterprise aimed at building access to high-quality God-centered education for their inner-city neighbors. This initial phase of the journey is outlined in a free PDF called “**8 First Steps to Start a Remarkable, God-Centered School in the City,**” and we have a community of leaders who you can join that are currently working on the important foundational activity of this phase. Either subscribe to our newsletter on our website’s homepage or sign-up for a free 8 First Steps webinar to get started.

Qualities we have traditionally looked for in Founders include: clear calling motivated by faith in Christ, entrepreneurial grit & perseverance, vision-casting aptitude, love for the city and its children, passion for education, self-aware, growth-oriented, desire for biblical justice, cross-cultural competence, capable networker, relationally savvy, team leadership, compelling communication,

theologically astute, results-oriented, strategic-thinker, and alignment with Hope Academy's model. Certainly, Founder prospects do not need to be masters of all these qualities, however, we do believe significant gaps either individually or on a team-level will hinder success. Thus, in certain cases, we may advise a delay in pursuing the launch of the school with instructions on areas of growth.

Applying to the Founder program includes two prerequisites and an application form. The first prerequisite is that applicants must attend a Plunge at Hope Academy or at least be scheduled to attend one. The second prerequisite is that applicants need to be a member of our 8 Steps Community. There is no required amount of time an applicant must have been a member of the 8 Steps Community, rather, acceptance into the Founder program hinges more on the extent of completion of the initial phase's activity this Community focuses on. The application form will ask leaders to share about their vocational experience, character, calling, testimony, competencies, education philosophy, family health & alignment, as well as evidence of progress on the first phase's activity (first 8 steps).

Timing to apply to the Founder's program has the following rhythm:

- Application opens in mid-February & invitations are extended
- Check-ins specific to applications are done every 2-4 weeks
- Once applicants submit, reviews are conducted, and notice is given within 7-10 days of submission.
- Early application deadline is May 31st.
- Final application deadline is July 15th.
- Once agreements are signed, consultation can begin.

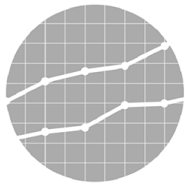
We give a small reduction in our consulting fee to accepted applicants who submit before the early deadline. Early applicants also get a longer period of consultation. The earliest we begin our 6-step process is June 1st for a 15-month consultation period, and the latest we start is August 1st for a 13-month period.



*How will I get to the point where I can stand in front of a **real** school with **real** students and have the **real** joy I see on Russ's face in this picture?*

*We've got **6-steps**.*

The Six Steps help leaders and their teams stay focused on the right things throughout the journey from planning to launch. Here's an overview below.



Plan – leaders establish strategic rhythms with their teams, enabling all involved to have productive cadences informed by short and long-term goals. A system is provided for leaders and their teams to begin implementing and grow into.

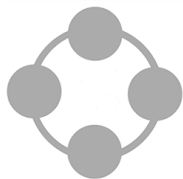
Inspire – leaders are equipped to establish a local philanthropic community to sustain the long-term mission. Coaching is provided on generating collateral, establishing relationships and conducting a kick-off generosity event along with intentional follow-up.



Enroll – leaders are guided as they canvas their area to enroll target families and raise awareness. We coach in the establishment and implementation of a marketing plan, admissions tools, enrollment-related events, and an all-school calendar.



Hire – leaders are advised with input on conducting the hiring process from search to interview to extending offers. Sample documents are provided, and coaching is given on onboarding, retaining, and recruiting talent for your mission.



Train – leaders and their staff receive in-service training on key processes inside and outside of the classroom, including classical pedagogy implementation, development, family ministry, cultural competency, and all the nuts and bolts of running a school.



Launch – leaders facilitate an effective start to their school, are plugged into a cohort for ongoing contextualization of the Hope Academy model as well as community with leaders in similar seats at early life-cycle schools.



[Founders Program Guides](#)

Read more about each of us at the About Us page of our site spreadinghopenetwork.org

Email tom.jones@spreading-hope.org for more info.