Q: To participate in the Fellowship program, do I have to live in Indianapolis?
A: No, Education Entrepreneur Fellows do not have to live in Indianapolis. However, Fellows are required to participate in regular check-in meetings with The Mind Trust Board of Directors and staff as well as cohort events with other Fellows in Indianapolis. The Mind Trust hopes to foster collegial and collaborative relationships among the growing community of education entrepreneurs doing work in Indianapolis. Fellows will also need to spend any additional time required to successfully launch their initiatives in Indianapolis (as they will need to do in all cities included in their initial launch plans). The $20,000 stipend Fellows receive may be used for travel to and from Indianapolis.

Q: What is an education entrepreneur?
A: Education entrepreneurs develop new approaches to tackle society's greatest challenges in radically new ways. They drive some of the most compelling improvements in educational outcomes for chronically underserved children, such as Wendy Kopp, who created Teach for America or Geoffrey Canada, founder of the Harlem Children’s Zone. The leaders of these organizations have transformed the educational experience of thousands of children and have changed our very conceptions of what is possible in the nation's public schools.

Q: What type of training and support is provided through the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship?
A: The Mind Trust individually supports each Fellow, both financially and professionally, with the resources and guidance necessary to develop and launch the Fellows' ventures.

- Fellows receive a $20,000 stipend over the course of the two-year Fellowship to support their work. This stipend may be used for customized training, travel or other reasonable purposes that advance their initiatives.
- Fellows are matched with a local "Champion" who can provide guidance, support, and access to people or groups necessary for the Fellow's success. Champions (likely to be senior-level business and community leaders) are committed to the Fellow's work and success. They recognize that education entrepreneurship can bring about transformative change in public education; they champion this cause.
- Fellows receive ongoing support from The Mind Trust's Board, staff and advisers at every stage. This support may include (but is not limited to) introductions to education leaders, policy makers, community leaders, local media and potential funders in Indianapolis; advice and support on developing a fundraising strategy in Indianapolis; advice and support in organizational development, including structure, governance, and accountability issues.
- Fellows are a part of a growing community of education entrepreneurs in Indianapolis and participate in events to share ideas and resources as they develop their initiatives.

Q: Who employs Education Entrepreneur Fellows, and are Fellows eligible for employee benefits?
A: Education Entrepreneur Fellows are full-time employees of The Mind Trust for the two years of the Fellowship. They are eligible for medical, dental and retirement benefits. The Fellowship is a full-time responsibility: Fellows may not have additional employment, consulting contracts, or other professional responsibilities. Note: The Mind Trust may need to adjust the employment packages of Fellows not based in Indiana to comply with state law and/or other factors, including but not limited to, the cost of employment.

Q: Upon completion of their Fellowship, what do Fellows go on to do?
A: At the end of the two-year Fellowship, Fellows are expected to launch and lead the initiatives they used the Fellowship to incubate and develop. Initiatives are expected to be self-sustaining after the two years of the Fellowship. The purpose of the Fellowship is to give education entrepreneurs an opportunity to design and launch new education initiatives that will be sustained over an extended period of time. The Mind Trust's financial support of the Fellow ends when the two-year Fellowship is over, but its non-financial support of the Fellow will continue indefinitely.

Q: Does The Mind Trust oversee and evaluate Fellows' work over time?
A: Each Fellowship applicant is required to submit a business plan - or similar planning document - when he or she is invited to submit a Full Application to The Mind Trust. When a Fellowship is awarded, the business plan serves as the foundational tool through which a Fellow is held accountable over the course of the Fellowship. While we recognize that the specific elements of the business plan will undoubtedly evolve over time, we expect the plan to serve as each Fellow's guide in launching and implementing the entrepreneurial venture. Once a Fellowship is awarded, each Fellow has the opportunity to refine his or her business plan in partnership with The Mind Trust to ensure it incorporates the elements identified in greater detail below.

The business plan serves as the mechanism for accountability conversations with The Mind Trust throughout the Fellowship. The Mind Trust's Vice President of Education Initiatives conducts regular check-in conversations with each Fellow in order to assess progress against the business plan goals and to troubleshoot any barriers or setbacks. In addition to regularly scheduled conversations with the Vice President of Education Initiatives, Fellows are required to meet in Indianapolis with The Mind Trust's Founder and CEO and Vice President of Education Initiatives on a quarterly basis in Year One and bi-annually in Year Two. These in-person meetings, which are designed to elicit guidance and constructive feedback, enable The Mind Trust to track the progress of each Fellow's work and establish a deeper relationship with each Fellow. Fellows are required to make a formal presentation to The Mind Trust's Board of Directors once a year during their Fellowship. They are also required to complete two written Year-End Reports.

Q: Does my initiative need to include Indianapolis?
A: Yes. The Mind Trust has a unique focus on and commitment to Indianapolis. We believe that the key to systemic reform is to concentrate many transformative education innovations in one place. We fully expect and hope that many initiatives launched by Fellows will extend regionally or nationally. Fellows, however, must include Indianapolis in their initial growth plans to be considered for the Fellowship.
Q: What types of ideas or initiatives is The Mind Trust looking for from Fellows?
A: The Mind Trust is open to any idea or initiative that furthers our mission to dramatically improve public education. The Mind Trust is looking for bold ideas that will bring about transformative change.

Q: Are faith-based initiatives acceptable for the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship?
A: Yes. The Mind Trust will consider potential faith-based initiatives that directly work to improve public education. Any initiative developed by an Education Entrepreneur Fellow, however, must comply with the Constitution of the State of Indiana and the Constitution of the United States of America, as well as all other legal requirements.

Q: What kind of governance structure is allowable for the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship?
A: As long as the initiative fulfills its mission of serving students, The Mind Trust is open to any type of governance structure that maximizes a venture’s opportunity to achieve long-term success and sustainability. Candidates can propose: 1) a new nonprofit; 2) an initiative in partnership with an existing organization (e.g. school district, charter management organization, community group, university); or 3) another entity that will further the tax exempt purposes of The Mind Trust.

Q: Can the initiative I propose for the Fellowship be regional or national in scope?
A: Yes. The Mind Trust fully expects and hopes that many initiatives launched by Fellows will extend regionally or nationally. However, Fellows must include Indianapolis in their initial growth plans.

Q: In order to be eligible to apply for the Fellowship, at what stage in development does my initiative need to be?
A: The purpose of The Mind Trust's Education Entrepreneur Fellowship is to provide opportunities for promising education entrepreneurs to develop new solutions to public education’s most vexing challenges. Candidates may propose initiatives that are in the conceptual or early stages of development. Candidates may also be further along in their work but need additional support to fully develop and launch their ventures. All successful candidates will have compelling visions for dramatically bettering the education of underserved students; they will also have the entrepreneurial skills necessary to succeed.

Q: Are you looking for people in a certain age group?
A: No. The Mind Trust has designed the Education Entrepreneur Fellowship to be attractive to people of all ages and experience levels. The competitive salary for the Fellowship and the two-year commitment made to Fellows is intended to remove barriers into the education reform sector for as many potential education entrepreneurs as possible.

Q: Is a research project eligible for consideration?
A: No. The Mind Trust is interested in supporting new initiatives that will transform public education. While it is possible that research may be a component of a Fellow's work, the Fellowship is not designed to be an opportunity to focus exclusively on a research project.

Q: Can I apply to the Fellowship with a business partner?
A: Yes. Business partners who have developed an initiative together are allowed to apply for the Fellowship as a team. However, each person must complete the Personal Information and Professional Background sections of the application. The application should clearly indicate the role each individual plays in the partnership in the description of the initiative.

Q: Do you require written letters of recommendation for a Fellowship application?
A: Candidates invited to submit Full Applications must have three written letters of recommendation submitted directly to The Mind Trust on their behalf. All letters of recommendation must be received by The Mind Trust within one week of the applicant's submission of the Full Application.

Q: Who makes the final selection of Fellows?
A: The Mind Trust's Education Entrepreneur Fellowship applications are reviewed by staff and outside experts engaged by The Mind Trust. In addition, candidates may be interviewed during the selection process by The Mind Trust staff and a Fellowship Selection Committee that The Mind Trust forms. The Mind Trust's Board of Directors makes the final decision on awarding Education Entrepreneur Fellowships.

Q: Will The Mind Trust share any information submitted by applicants with anyone not part of the Fellowship application review process?
A: No. All information submitted to The Mind Trust by applicants and their recommenders will be kept strictly confidential.