

## **CONTEST DETAILS**

**ELIGIBILITY** -This contest is open to Birmingham City School's (BCS) high school students (grades 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) AND all BCS teachers, counselors, and instructional coaches. There are 2 categories: student and teacher. Each category will have one winner of \$5,000, \$1,500, and \$1,000. (*Winners from last year's competition are ineligible*)

**HOW TO ENTER**- starting now through January 5, 2018, all applicants may submit ideas to [www.nextgenbham.com](http://www.nextgenbham.com). Click on the APPLY link at the top of the page (second tab), complete all required information. All ideas must be submitted with a completed entry form. There is no cost to enter. Only one entry is allowed per student or teacher/admin.

**DEADLINE** – All entries are due by 11:59 p.m. CST on January 5, 2018.

**CONTEST REQUIREMENTS** – You must be a BCS high school student OR teacher to enter. In 300-500 words, contestants must complete this sentence: “Birmingham’s brighter future depends on ...” this sentence must be included in applicant’s submission form along with an explanation of the idea.

**CONTEST TIMELINE**- Once all entries have been submitted by Jan 5, 2018, judges will review the entries and pick the top 25 student ideas and the top 25 teacher ideas. The top 25 students and top 25 teachers will be announced by January 12, 2018. The top 25 students and top 25 teachers must then pitch their ideas, in person, to a panel of judges on January 25, 2018. Judges will pick the top 3 students and the top 3 teachers. (Additional details about the January 25<sup>th</sup> pitch competition will be provided to the semifinalists.) The top 3 students and top 3 teachers will be announced January 29, 2018. Over the next few months, the top 3 students and the top 3 teachers will then have the opportunity to consult with a representative from a company partner to discuss their idea, ways to advance it and how best to pitch their idea during a May 3, 2018 final pitch competition round before a live audience. Think of this as a mentorship. Companies will meet with the finalists in an effort to mentor them in areas to help advance their idea, their school career, their business career, etc. During the final round on May 3, 2018, the top 3 students will compete for first place at a public event. The top 3 teachers will compete for first place. Winners will be announced that night. Contestants agree to participate in all levels of the contest from the selection of the semi-finalists and finalists to the announcement of the top winners on May 3, 2018. The winners of the prizes will be determined by a panel of judges. All results are non-contestable and final. All participants and/or their legal guardians consent to the possibility that their likeness, name and/or idea may be published for promotional purposes. Once an idea is submitted, the sponsors and partners of NextGen retain the right to edit, publish and/or use the idea in future promotions. By entering the contest, contestants and contestants’ guardians give permission for their entries to be formatted and printed, as well as, to be distributed to the community and the media.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What kind of ideas do organizers want?** – They are looking for innovative and fresh ideas that will help improve Birmingham. It could be a product, service, innovative idea, etc. Remember, your submission needs to incorporate the question: “Birmingham’s brighter future depends on ...”

**Are high school students and teachers competing against each other in this contest?** – No, there are two contests. One contest is for ideas from BCS students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades. This means that high school students will compete against each other. The other contest is for ideas from Birmingham City Schools’ teachers. This means that Birmingham high school teachers will compete against each other.

**What are the prizes?** One high school student will win \$5,000 and one high school teacher will win \$5,000 for first place. The first-place runner up in the student category will win \$1,500 and the second-place runner up in the student category will win \$1,000. The first-place runner up in the teacher category will win \$1,500 and the second-place runner up in the teacher category will win \$1,000.

**Can a group of teachers or students submit an idea as a team?** - No. All ideas must be original and must be submitted by one person. Copyrighted or previously published material will not be accepted. By submitting your application, you agree that your idea is original.

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