

Name of the Organization	Safal Partners
Website	<a href="http://safalpartners.com/">http://safalpartners.com/</a>
Contact	Mukta Pandit
Email Address	Mukta@safalpartners.com
About the Organization	Safal Partners is a Texas-based education-focused, management consulting firm that has a proven track record of implementing best practices in successful engagements. We have been involved with some of the most influential organizations in K-12 education, including government agencies, school districts, nonprofits, charter management organizations, and private foundations. Safal team members have deep knowledge of Texas’s K-12 education landscape and have direct experience leading the nation’s most advanced, studied and effective initiatives to implement similar transformation zones.
Approach to Designing Transformation Zones	Our approach to school transformation includes supporting districts in determining which schools are ready for a substantial change, implementing crucial changes to governance, partnering with quality school operators, and allowing schools autonomy similar to charter schools. Ideally, schools in the zone should get almost all of the funding for their school, with less than 2% allocated to the central office. Funding should be allocated on a differentiated basis and lastly, schools that do not succeed should be considered for closure or chartering. Safal team members will work to identify specific recommendations for all necessary steps and functions, and help the LEA to consider implementation challenges and corresponding mitigation strategies.
Transformation Zone Experience(s)	<p><i>School District of Philadelphia:</i> Safal team members worked in Philadelphia to support their Autonomy Network. The project involved significant local context research, including stakeholder interviews and surveys with current school leaders in the network to identify what constraints, unmet school needs and opportunities existed within the district.</p> <p><i>Aurora Public Schools:</i> Our team helped guide schools and the district in defining the zone structure and set of autonomies that would be conferred on participant schools. Four of the five schools were at risk of state takeover or closure and these schools showed great progress throughout their partnership. The results of this effort are still pending as the process of implementation of the zone is still in its early stages.</p> <p><i>Denver Public Schools:</i> The Safal team managed the process to authorizing new innovation schools in the district, including groups of schools that came forward as part of zone transformation efforts in far northeast and west Denver. Each of the schools worked on their own innovation plan, received autonomy on school schedules, teacher development, curriculum, calendars and employment terms. The oversight also included charter-to-charter restart that brought in a new charter operator to take over from a failing</p>

	charter. Results showed that there was improvement in the first year of implementing the zone. In the charter-to-charter restart, significant gains were shown in multiple areas of proficiency.
Additional Information	Safal team members that would be leading this effort are <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Adam Hawf</li><li>- Alex Medler</li><li>- Brenna Copeland and</li><li>- Mukta Pandit</li></ul>