

Innovation in Education

The Innovation Schools Act of 2008 “strongly encourages” local boards of education to consider innovations in the following areas:

1. Curriculum and academic standards and assessments.
2. Accountability measures, including but not limited to expanding the use of a variety of accountability measures to more accurately present a complete measure of student learning and accomplishment. The accountability measures adopted by an innovation school or an innovation school zone may include, but need not be limited to:
 - a. use of graduation or exit examinations;
 - b. use of end-of-course examinations;
 - c. use of student portfolio reviews;
 - d. use of national and international accountability measures such as the national assessment of educational progress and the program for international student assessment;
 - e. measuring the percentage of students continuing into higher education; and
 - f. measuring the percentage of students simultaneously obtaining a high school diploma and an associate’s degree or a career and technical education certificate.
3. Provision of services, including but not limited to special education services; services for gifted students; services for English language learners; educational services for students at risk of academic failure, expulsion, or dropping out; and support services provided by the department of human services or county social services agencies.
4. Teacher recruitment, training, preparation and professional development.
5. Teacher employment.
6. Performance expectations and evaluation procedures for teachers and principals.
7. Compensation for teachers, principals and other school building personnel, including but not limited to performance pay plans, total compensation plans, and other innovations with regard to retirement and other benefits.
8. School governance and the roles, responsibilities and expectations of principals in innovation schools or schools within an innovation school zone.
9. Preparation and counseling of students for transition into higher education or the work force.

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