

Innovation may be applied to any aspect of the educational experience providing it is connected to growth in student achievement and well-being. This could include initiatives such as:

- creating a school-wide focus on literacy and numeracy
- improving processes for school-based professional development
- enhancing the rigor and relevance of curriculum and instruction
- promoting authentic student voice, nurturing student aspirations and improving student support system
- enhancing 21st century skills, including personal wellness, fiscal literacy, civic literacy and global awareness
- improving graduation rates
- re-imagining career and college readiness
- expanding meaningful parental and community engagement for school improvement

The possibilities for innovation are endless.

How much money may be granted?

The West Virginia Board of Education will grant awards on a pro-rata basis up to \$50,000 for the planning of innovative programs to enhance educational performance. Applications are due Dec. 15, 2010, and funds will be distributed to designated Innovation Zones in January 2011.

How can you find out more?

Visit the WVDE Innovation Zones website for a copy of the application and guidance:

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/innovationzones>

Attend regional information meetings – dates and locations are found on the website:

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/innovationzones>

For more information, contact Donna Peduto, coordinator of the WVDE Innovation Zone Initiative, at dpeduto@access.k12.wv.us, or 304-558-3199.

Innovation Zone



Division of Educator Quality and
System Support
West Virginia Department of Education



What is an Innovation Zone?

A designation by the West Virginia Board of Education that provides public schools with the support and flexibility to collaboratively implement innovations, which currently may be restricted by policy or code.

Currently, there are 19 schools and consortiums designated as the 2010 Innovation Zones. These schools are entering the Phase II Implementation segment of the innovation initiatives. Please visit the Innovation Zone website to read about 2010 Innovation Zone successes, http://wvde.state.wv.us./innovation_zones.

Who Should Apply?

Applications are welcome from educators who have a shared vision of how to better prepare students for learning and living in a global society. Educators must be willing to work together over time to identify, plan and implement innovative and educationally sound ideas that contribute to the achievement and well-being of the students they serve. This could include:

School and Groups of Schools

- entire faculty of a public school working to implement a school-wide strategy
- feeder schools or schools of the same programmatic levels working within a county or across counties to implement a strategy



Teacher Team or Partnership of Teams

- partnership of teacher teams across schools (subject-specific departments, grade level, or issue-specific teams willing to implement a common approach)
- teacher teams within a school (department, grade-level, or cross-role team with a common focus)

Higher Education Institutions

Establish a new Innovation Zone school under the jurisdiction of a state institution of higher education, which must be approved by the county board of the school district in which the new school is located.



What are the benefits of an Innovation Zone?

- flexibility from policy and/or code
- an opportunity to receive funds to study and develop new and original ideas
- support to pilot unique reform ideas on a small scale
- enhanced teacher leadership and collaboration in and among schools
- an opportunity to participate on a state-wide team of like-minded innovators willing to support each other and take risks on behalf of students

What ideas could be considered?

West Virginia schools are led by teachers and principals with the collective wisdom and imaginative ideas on how to prepare students for their future. An Innovation Zone provides the opportunities for faculties or teams to refine those ideas with resources and support from the West Virginia Board of Education. These ideas could include a range of topics from how to restructure time, configure staff, and modify school-wide programs to more specific ideas that may relate to a particular grade or content level.