

INNOVATION ZONES

IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH A MORE DECENTRALIZED, PERSONALIZED EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, SCHOOLS SHALL BE ORGANIZED AND REALIGNED INTO INNOVATION ZONES TO FOCUS AND ENHANCE STUDENT/STAFF IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES. INNOVATION ZONES ARE LEARNING COMMUNITIES WITH A FOCUS ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND SCHOOL EFFECTIVENESS. GROUPS OF SCHOOLS ARE EMPOWERED TO PLAN AND WORK IN A MORE COLLABORATIVE MANNER, AND TO BETTER ANALYZE, ALIGN, AND IMPLEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS, PRE-K TO ADULT.

Authority: F.S. 230.22 (1) (2)

Policy Adopted: 3/21/95

Policy Amended: 02/17/98

RULES:

1. The configuration of the zones will be recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the School Board on an annual basis. As diversity and boundary decisions are made, the configurations may change in subsequent years. Area superintendents will meet with schools and innovation zones in their areas to determine the most appropriate configurations for their areas. For initial implementation, schools have been divided into linear zones, pre-K to adult. However, any configuration that fits the needs of the schools will be considered.
2. Vocational, adult, alternative and ESE centers will serve as Area Service Centers for Innovation Zones. Representatives of pre-K to adult Innovation Zones will meet periodically throughout the year with Area Service Center representatives to maintain pre-K to adult communication. In addition, each Center will be part of a single Innovation Zone.
3. Annually, the Superintendent shall, after receiving input from zone principals, designate a principal within each zone to serve as a lead zone facilitator(s).
4. Innovation Zones Teams will be formed by the lead zone facilitator in cooperation with the Area Superintendents. Each zone team will be composed of area directors, principals, community school assistant principals, high school students, teachers, parents, business and community partners, district liaisons and Nova links etc. Diverse representation, shall be considered when forming the team. Each school in the zone will have representation from each group referenced above. Each group represented on the zone team, where applicable, shall elect their own representation.

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- a. One parent shall be elected from each school's improvement team to serve as Zone Representative from that school. The zone representative is responsible for attending Innovation Zone meetings. At the school level, the Zone Representative is responsible for attending PTA/Advisory Meetings and communicating with these organizations. This representative will be elected by parents at an annual parent meeting facilitated by the principal.
 - b. Each zone will have a Regular Education parent, an Exceptional Student Education parent, an English Speakers of Other Languages parent, and a Vocational, Adult and Community Education parent or student representation. If this representation does not naturally occur as a result of the elected parent or student representatives from each school, the Innovation Zone Teams will be responsible for selecting representatives from each of these areas and will assure equitable representation.
 - c. Each high school will elect one student representative to serve on the Innovation Zone Team.
5. Each zone, prior to making any decisions that affect the schools in the zone, will develop shared decision-making guidelines that reflect the Board's Innovation Zone policy and shared decision-making procedures. These guidelines will be reviewed and approved by the Area Superintendents.
 6. The Innovation Zone will follow all current Board policies, union contracts, state statutes, and school guidelines. Where there is a recommendation, on the part of a zone, to deviate from any current policy, a procedure will be developed by the Superintendent to address waiver requests.
 7. Innovation Zone Support Teams of trained professionals will be available to work with Innovation Zones based on a comprehensive needs assessment. Team members will include personnel from District and Area offices and from the schools within. Zone principals will recommend Team Composition to the affected area superintendent(s) for final approval. Examples of zone support include, but are not limited to:

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- training
- needs assessment
- developing action steps
- strategic planning
- mathematics
- technology
- parent training
- budget
- data analysis
- writing measurable objectives
- evaluation
- reading/writing
- behavior management
- school-to-work
- personnel
- grant application
- diversity assessment

8. The Innovation Zone concept will be reviewed annually based on defined outcomes as listed in #9 below.
9. Priority outcomes are to be addressed through comprehensive Innovation Zone strategic planning. The Board intends that the zones will produce the following initial outcomes:
 - a. **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:** Develop a system to define a common commitment to rigorous performance outcomes, analyze and disaggregate data, diagnose gaps, and formulate plans to address standards of service and increase achievement for all students.
 1. Align and correlate standards and curriculum to assessment.
 2. Align and correlate curriculum to avoid duplication of student efforts.
 3. Involve students in participatory learning and peer support across levels.
 - b. **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** create a learning community with a commitment to clearly defined standards and high expectations.
 1. Provide time for collaboration, mentoring, and peer coaching using teachers and partners within the Innovation Zone.
 2. Develop diagnostic, evaluation, and application skills and knowledge to increase capacity for staff and parent/community members through quality professional development practices.
 3. Develop Zone support teams focused on improvement of teaching and learning for all students.

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- c. **STUDENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Maintain a safe and orderly learning environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn.
 - 1. Develop and implement a behavior management continuum with consistent expectations and appropriate consequences within the Innovation Zone.
 - 2. Coordinate safety efforts with local, municipal and the county police departments.
 - 3. Develop a climate of mutual respect and a tone of decency among staff and students.

- d. **SCHOOL, PARENT AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS:** Develop school, parent, and community partnerships which support readiness to learn and provide enhanced learning opportunities.
 - 1. Involve parent/community/businesses directly in the development and implementation of Innovation Zones.
 - 2. Develop joint neighborhood municipality programs.
 - 3. Include community business leaders as mentors for principals, teachers, and students in the Innovation Zone.
 - 4. Develop collaboration with outside agencies by including community and business leaders in establishment of performance standards and learning opportunities necessary for a productive workforce.
 - 5. Develop youth apprenticeship programs to include school-to-work transition.

- e. **FAMILY AND STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES:** Establish the Community Initiatives for Families' concept of Level I, II, and III support for students and families throughout the Innovation Zones.
 - 1. Address students' support services needs by developing the Community Initiative for Families/Family Resource Center delivery model in each zone.
 - 2. Develop community recreational and child care support within the Innovation Zone.

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- f. **EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP:** Establish effective leadership that develops ownership in Zone initiatives for all stakeholders and improves student achievement and school effectiveness.
 - 1. Facilitate implementation of professional development/training.
 - 2. Facilitate enhanced communication between and among principals, students, teachers, parents, and the community throughout the Innovation Zone.
 - 3. Develop strategies and provide leadership for implementing and maximizing efforts in curriculum, technology, school partnerships, school resources, diversity/equity, accountability, and other services across grade levels.
 - 4. Facilitate the development of the zone as a supportive learning community.

- g. **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Initiate and refine Innovation Zone strategic planning in order to establish a constancy of purpose and provide a quality education for all students, pre k-adult.
 - 1. Provide for greater grant and other funding opportunities.
 - 2. Maximize the use of technology/facilities and other resources through shared use of services.
 - 3. Research instructional innovation and develop innovative teaching strategies common throughout the Zone.
 - 4. Identify program and facility equity issues and develop solutions.
 - 5. Address growth/boundary/diversity issues.
 - 6. Develop an assessment/accountability process to evaluate initiatives.

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