

Education Programs

Educational Innovation

I. Purpose

This policy affirms the school district's commitment to educational innovation as a means of advancing the district's mission and supporting the continuous improvement process.

II. General Statement of Policy

The school district believes that educational innovation is an important part of the district's and individual schools' improvement process. A commitment to innovation stimulates creativity, enhances collaboration, and supports a culture of growth and excellence. Projects will align with the district's strategic plan, annual district goals, annual school improvement goals, and/or staff development plans to improve learning for all students.

III. Seeking Educational Innovative Initiatives

- A. An educational innovation is the process of translating an idea or invention into a service, method, product or program which creates value for and/or strategic advancement of the district's mission.
- B. The school district will establish and implement a process to support educational innovative initiatives. The Director of Teaching and Learning will be responsible for developing, implementing, promoting, and evaluating the process. The process will encourage and guide staff to develop innovative projects that align to the district's strategic plan, annual district goals, annual school improvement goals, and/or staff development plans to improve learning for all students. The innovative initiative process will include:
 - Support and promotion for innovation project development.
 - An application process that outlines the needs, desired goals, and required resources for a proposed project.
 - An assessment approach for determining which innovation projects will be approved.
 - Measured criteria for determining the success of the project.
 - Updates on the innovation projects will be reported at the conclusion of each school year.

- Training opportunities to advance staff skills, creativity, collaboration, and innovation.
- C. The district will access both district funding resources and funding resources from partnership organizations, agencies and businesses to financially support innovative initiatives. A primary source of partnership funding support will be the Edina Education Fund. All partnership agreements involving commitments by the district will be approved by the school board.

IV. Educational Innovation Project Implementation

A. Approval of educational innovation projects will use the following guidelines:

- District Administrative Team: Project funding, including staffing, of \$25,000 or less on an annual basis and project launching and pilot on a partial and/or phased implementation of a program or service delivery.
- School Board: Project funding, including staffing, exceeding \$25,000 on annual basis and project launching and/or pilot on a full-scale implementation of a program or service delivery.

B. The Director of Teaching and Learning will be responsible for the oversight of all innovative projects.

Cross References:

Policy 105 (School District Mission, Values, Beliefs and Strategic Direction)

Policy 603 (Curriculum and Program Review and Development)

Policy
adopted: 7/21/14

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 273
Edina, Minnesota