

## Innovative Education Program Implementation Application Guidance

The search and implementation of an Innovative Education Program is an individual journey for each school; each must go on their own journey down the path. There is no one way to implement an Innovative Education Program. The North Dakota Legislature and the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) recognize that innovative programs may look different in individual schools. Many factors contribute to the decision regarding the direction of a school's individual Innovative Education Program journey.

The state's purpose for creating an Innovative Education Program is to allow individual schools to have individualized missions, goals, and objectives through a comprehensive plan that helps meet the needs of their students.

Through [North Dakota Century Code \(NDCC\) 15.1-06-08.2](#), the NDDPI is authorized to approve schools' implementation of innovative education to improve students' educational performance. Schools submitting an Innovative Education Program Implementation Application must have submitted and received approval on the Innovative Education Program Planning Proposal and completed one year of planning. During the first year of planning, schools will have explained the rationale and the comprehensive visioning and justified the reasoning for pursuing the Innovative Education Program.

After the successful completion of the planning year, the school may submit a comprehensive Innovative Education Program Implementation Application, which may be approved for a period of up to five years. The NDDPI may approve the application, reject the application, or work with the submitting school to modify the application.

### **Key Elements for the Innovative Education Program Implementation Application:**

1. Planning Proposal: Clear evidence of a minimum of one year planning for innovative education.
2. Stakeholder Engagement: Describe the process of planning the Innovative Education Program, including details on the planning committee and stakeholders involved. Stakeholders should include, but are not limited to, district and building leaders, teachers and teacher leaders, students and parents, school board members, community and business leaders, and institutions of higher education, where appropriate.
3. Implementation Plan: Submit a detailed, comprehensive Innovative Education Program plan and the plan for beginning the implementation of this plan. This plan should closely align to the school's vision for teaching and learning, including how the school's conditions will enable the school to attain that vision. The implementation plan should include goals and objectives, timelines for completion, and parties responsible for completion.

To assure school board members were involved, the school board must approve the plan by including the school board meeting minutes showing a review of the plan and approval to implement. Include documentation of commitment from stakeholders (i.e., letters of support, survey results, and meeting minutes).

Provide information on how this is expected to:

- A. Improve the delivery of education;
- B. Improve the administration of education;
- C. Provide increased educational opportunities for students; or
- D. Improve the academic success of students.

Identify local, state, and federal programs and how these programs will align to the implementation of the Innovative Education Program. This could include modifications to funding structures, local requirements, and agreements.

4. Governing Board Involvement and Approval: Clear evidence regarding the governing board's involvement, support, and approval.
5. Professional Development: Establish and provide a professional development plan aligned to the Innovative Education Program.
6. Continuous Improvement/Formative Evaluation: Provide documentation of the school's commitment to implementing a continuous improvement process in order to prevent repeat failures, capitalize on accomplishments, and ensure the school is moving toward realizing the vision outlined in the Rationale section. The design of this system should allow use of data to guide implementation.
7. Sustainability: Develop a sustainability plan to ensure the work continues into the future and beyond the tenure of a school leader and/or district superintendent.
8. Evaluation Criteria: Establish evaluation of the program and provide a list of measures that will be used to monitor progress of both the program's implementation and how the program has:
  - A. Improved the delivery of education;
  - B. Improved the administration of education;
  - C. Provided increased educational opportunities for students; or
  - D. Improved the academic success of students.

The evaluation plan must include multiple evaluation measures. Applications should include quantitative and qualitative data measures, short-term and long-term goals, academic and school climate measures, and timelines.

Early stages of evaluation must include improvement on cultural measures such as attendance, disciplinary incidents, student engagement, student voice, student and parent survey data, and/or evidence of improved instruction practices.

Mid- and later stages of evaluation must include improved student performance, including academic content skills and dispositions. Proficient and growth measures should be included.

Due Date: School districts are encouraged to submit an Innovative Education Program Implementation Application by March 1 each year to assure sufficient time for NDDPI to review and if approved, allow time for schools to prepare for the next school year's implementation. Schools may submit applications throughout the school year with the knowledge that implementation will begin after the application has been reviewed and approved.

Application Process: There is no official state form to utilize when applying. Schools may submit a detailed implementation application outlining the Key Elements above. Applications may be submitted to:

Office of School Approval & Opportunity  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505  
Phone: (701) 328-4571  
Email: [dpischoolapproval@nd.gov](mailto:dpischoolapproval@nd.gov)