

Innovative Education Program Planning Proposal Guiding Questions and Review Criteria

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the key elements reviewed for the Innovative Education Program Planning Proposal. Under each key element, questions have been designed to assist schools and districts think and plan deeply in preparation for the application process. Also included are the criteria that will be considered for program review and approval.

Key Element 1: Rationale and Vision

- What type of knowledge do we want our students to have upon graduation? What do we want them to know?
- With what type of skills do we want our students to graduate? What do we want them to be able to do?
- What characteristics do we want our graduates to reflect? How do we want them to interact with the world?
- How has the district or school changed over the last 5 to 10 years? How do we expect it to change over the next 5-10 years?
- How will this innovative program help us meet the vision and goals set forth for our school?
- What research exists that provides an evidence base for the particular innovation we are pursuing?
- What barriers to innovation exist in research? How will we plan to address those barriers?
- If our school has begun to implement innovative practices, what is the evidence of success?

Review Criteria: Rationale and Vision

The proposal includes a description of why the school/district wants to explore an innovative proposal.

1. A description of the conditions in the school/district that create a need and/or desire for improvement or change.
2. Cited research, literature, or data that affirms the need for an innovation.
3. The alignment to the current school/district vision.
4. A description of how the school/district will ensure alignment to one or more of the innovative program requirements:
 - a. Improve the delivery of education.
 - b. Improve the administration of education.
 - c. Provide increased educational opportunities for students.
 - d. Improve the academic success of students.

Key Element 2: Stakeholder Engagement

- Who are the stakeholder groups in our community? (In the school community and the broader community)
- How will we engage stakeholders in the planning process for innovation?
- How will we receive feedback from stakeholders about our innovation proposal?
- How will we address any barriers to the planning process based on stakeholders in your community?
- How will we engage members of the school community, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff, and the broader community in understanding our vision and goals for this innovative program?

Review Criteria: Stakeholder Engagement

The proposal includes a concrete plan for engaging stakeholders in the planning process.

1. A description of the diverse stakeholder groups that will be consulted to inform the implementation proposal.
2. A plan for engaging stakeholders during the planning year, including:
 - a. A timeline of planned stakeholder engagement activities.
 - b. A description of how planned activities will gather stakeholder feedback on topics including:
 - i. The current needs of the school district.
 - ii. Potential solutions to address the need.
3. A description of how the stakeholder input will be used to inform the development of the implementation proposal.

Key Element 3: Local Governing Board Involvement and Approval

- How will we involve our local school board in the process to pursue innovation?
- What actions have been made by the board to commit to innovation in education?

Review Criteria: Local Governing Board Involvement and Approval

The proposal includes evidence of local governing board involvement and approval.

1. Approved minutes signed by the board chair and superintendent or chief executive officer describing the discussion and approval of the planning proposal.

Key Element 4: Professional Development

- How will we engage teachers in the planning process to create innovative, relevant professional development opportunities?
- How will we personalize professional development opportunities for teachers?

Review Criteria: Professional Development

The proposal includes a plan for building stakeholder engagement, knowledge about school needs, and possible innovative solutions.

1. A plan for building school staff engagement and knowledge:
 - a. A plan or schedule of activities for exploring possible solutions to the need (examples: school visits, research, book studies).
 - b. Description of how staff time is allotted to exploratory activities.
2. A plan for sharing the learning and exploration with diverse stakeholders.