



# Innovation in Education LOCEA Report 2021

## WVBE Policy 3236 Innovation in Education

### **Innovation Zones**

One of the original intents of the Innovation Zone legislation was to allow local schools and districts waivers of policies to determine if there was a significant impact for student achievement to drive policy changes. Some of the practices implemented by Innovation Zone schools and districts led to changes in *WVBE Policy 2510: Assuring Quality of Education Regulations for Education Programs* to allow all West Virginia Schools to request waivers that were previously only available to schools in Innovation Zones. These changes include:

- » Utilizing sports or other courses requiring physical activity to be used as a physical education credit
- » Eliminating the requirement of 8100 minutes of instructional time for high school course credit
- » Allowing county created courses to replace required credit courses
- » Embedding credit for mathematics, English language arts, and science in CTE courses
- » Allowing 4 math credits to be earned at any time during grades 9 – 12 instead of one math class each year of high school.
- » Providing the option to report separate grades for English Language Arts and reading in middle schools
- » Expanding math course options for high school students
- » Providing the option to use JROTC courses for Physical Education and Social Studies Credits
- » Providing high school students flexibility to personalize at least one graduation requirement in the areas of English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

Once the funding ended for School Innovation Zones (June 30, 2016), counties were encouraged to reapply through Innovation in Education or request a waiver from the West Virginia Board of Education.

### **2016-2020 Innovation in Education Schools:**

County	School	Innovations that Continue as a result of Innovation in Education
Barbour	Phillip Barbour High School	An emphasis on STEM education to provide students additional opportunities for educational success and productive citizenship.
Berkeley	Springs Mills High School	Provide students with access to makerspace labs and materials including but not limited to: 3-D printers, basic hand tools, sewing and embroidery machines, engraving machines, laser/copying machines, poster printing machines, and book-binding equipment.
Greenbrier	Greenbrier West High School	After-school programs utilizing community resources in theatre and the arts plus academic tutoring and alternative scheduling of courses. To provide students with the skills to rebuild their community.
Hancock	Oak Glen Middle School	Provide staff with training from the Buck Institute in project-based learning for the classroom. Continue the student career exploration initiative.

County	School	Innovations that Continue as a result of Innovation in Education
Kanawha	Dunbar Intermediate School	Use an inquiry-based approach to learning in a restructured school day to focus on academic content in the morning with more competency-based scheduling in the afternoon.
	Mary Ingles Elementary	Provide access to makerspaces, problem-based learning experiences, opportunities for extended learning, and provide parents opportunities to take classes in the evening at the school to help break the cycle of poverty in their community.
	George Washington High School	Introduction to STEM course, transform portions of the library into a multi-media collaboration and fabrication space, offer opportunities to experience VEX robotics.
Marshall	John Marshall High School	STEM Program and creation of a FABLab (fabrication laboratory).
Tucker	Tucker County High School	Created specific introduction to STEM coursework and transformed a portion of their media center into a makerspace. Students work on STEM projects with a feeder school in the area. Student Success Program inspires and engages students in entrepreneurial mindsets.

*\*Due to Remote Learning during the 2020-21 School year, at this time no schools have expressed interest in being a demonstration school. This will be revisited during the 2021-2022 school year.*

### **2019-2021 Applications for Innovation in Education:**

#### **2019 Competency Based Learning WVDE and Education Alliance Collaboration Project**

The following schools participated in an incubator process and are currently in a pilot that was extended into a second year due to the pandemic.

County	High Schools	Original Incubator Process 2019-2021	2021-2022 Pilot
Berkley	Martinsburg	Yes	Yes
Greenbrier	Greenbrier East	Yes	No
Kanawha	St. Albans	Yes	Yes
	Nitro	Yes	Yes
Ohio	Wheeling Park	Yes	Yes
Upshur	Buckhannon-Upshur	Yes	Yes
Wetzel	Magnolia	Yes	Yes

For the 2021-2022 school year WVDE and The Education Alliance (EA) are working together with assistance from the Great Schools Partnership (GSP) to support a professional learning group comprised of participating school and district leaders. GSP agreed to meet monthly with the schools and to conduct virtual tours of schools and provide an opportunity for one-on-one support with each of the pilot sites to:

- » Provide a Mastery-based Learning Leadership Webinar led by David Ruff of Great Schools Partnership (GSP)
- » Develop an application form for schools to apply for Innovation in Education participation aligned with West Virginia Board of Education application to identify school-specific goals.
- » Provide two technical assistance calls with GSP to ensure the school application meets the requirement of WVBE Policy 3236.
- » Convene a planning team for each school for a virtual full-day school application work session in which a team of educators from each school receive technical assistance from GSP and time during the agenda via virtual “breakout rooms” to complete the application.

In addition, WVDE provided a second grant in 2020 to EA to provide \$10,000 grants to each participating school to enable educator participation in the project. Mastery-based learning applications will be submitted to the West Virginia Board of Education this fall as schools continue to work through the initial stages of the pilot project.

**2021-2022 Empowerment Academies**

Empowerment Academies are a new addition to the Innovation in Education work. These academies encompass all areas of STEM and are in collaboration with WVDE and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). The empowerment academies are built on SREB’s Key Practices for Improvement.

**Empowerment Academies address the following topics:**

- » Workplace Environment
- » Authentic Learning (Includes Competency Based Learning)
- » Entrepreneurial Mindset
- » Supportive Structures

County	Participating Schools
Calhoun	ALL
Monroe	Peterstown Middle School
Nicholas	ALL
Upshur	ALL

