



Book: BYLAWS AND POLICIES
Section: 2000 PROGRAM
Title: IPS/Edison INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOLS
Code: 2620
Status: Active
Legal: IC 20-25.7
IC 20-25.5
Adopted: September 15, 2020

1) GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT

a. Pursuant to applicable statutes providing for the creation of innovation network schools and innovation network charter schools, the Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis has adopted the following policy to govern innovation network school agreements with the Indianapolis Public School Corporation.

b. Definitions:

i. Innovation network school – a school operated by an innovation network team.

ii. Innovation network team – the entity responsible for the operations of an innovation network school (the “Operator”). An innovation network team must meet the requirements as described in IC 20-25.7-4-3(a) & IC 20-25.7-4-5(a); furthermore, an innovation network team must establish a not-for-profit legal entity to negotiate and enter an innovation network school agreement.

iii. Innovation network charter school – a charter school whose organizer enters into an innovation network school agreement under IC 20-25.7-5 to have the charter school participate as an innovation network school.

iv. Innovation network school agreement – a contract between the school corporation and the legal entity operating the innovation network school which outlines the terms, duties, and responsibilities of each party to the agreement.

2) BOARD REVIEW AND APPROVAL

a. All innovation network school plans must be presented to the Board for review, and approval for administration to negotiate an innovation network school agreement in alignment with the approved plan. All innovation network school agreements must be presented to the Board for final action.

b. The terms of all innovation network agreements must comply with IC 20-25.7-4-5(b) and shall not exceed five years in length.

c. The Board and an innovation network team from every innovation network school shall meet in a public meeting at least two (2) times annually to discuss issues and progress concerning the innovation network school. (IC 20-25.7-4-10)

- i. The Board shall review the innovation network school and agreement at the second annual report to the board prior to the final year of the agreement for consideration of renewal;
- ii. Non-renewal of the innovation network agreement must occur by written notice not later than 180 days prior to the expiration of the agreement and must specifically identify an enumerated reason for termination as listed in the innovation network agreement.

d. The superintendent, or designee, shall serve as the principal negotiator for innovation network school agreements and may execute all supplemental documents and agreements necessary to implement an innovation network agreement executed by the Board, or a modification, adjustment, or waiver pursuant to section 2(e) of this policy.

e. Any modification or adjustment to essential terms of an innovation network school agreement, including but not limited to: term, location, grades served, attendance area, enrollment, or material changes to the instructional model, financial obligations and operational responsibilities of the parties, must be in writing and approved by the Board of School Commissioners. Any modification, adjustment, or waiver of nonessential terms of an agreement, as determined by the Superintendent, must be in writing and shall be reported to the Board during the next bi-annual meeting with the innovation network partner.

3) INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

a. An innovation network school is subject to all applicable federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination.

b. The governance of an entity operating under an innovation network school agreement shall be pursuant to the articles of incorporation and bylaws established by the legal entity.

c. Innovation network school agreements must include a provision for required school policies.

i. The required school policies must include, but are not limited to, policies and procedures relating to the manner in which operator will:

1. receive and address complaints and other comments from students', parents and guardians, other stakeholders, and the public generally;

2. receive and resolve grievances and complaints from school personnel;

3. comply with Title IX;

4. comply with the McKinney-Vento Act; and

5. implement school discipline, including the process for appealing disciplinary decisions.

ii. The school policies also must include any other policies and procedures required by applicable law.

d. Policies adopted by the Board do not apply to an innovation network school except where specifically incorporated into the innovation network school agreement.

4) ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDELINES

a. The superintendent is directed to promulgate administrative guidelines to establish:

i. the program to provide support to teachers and administrators who wish to establish an innovation network school (IC 20-25.7-4-11);

ii. the program for evaluation of required reports and accountability metrics as defined in innovation network school agreements;

iii. format and timing of public meetings and reports to the Board by innovation network teams twice annually pursuant to IC 20-25.7-4-10; and

- iv. required documentation deemed necessary for the execution of an innovation network school agreement, or modification or adjustment to terms of an existing innovation network school agreement.