

Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability Report
Senate Bill 228- Innovation Zone Legislation
W.Va. Code 18-5B-13 and WVBE Policy 3236 (revised June, 2014)
July, 2015

The legislative rule authorizes the West Virginia Board of Education to designate education Innovation Zones in Schools, groups of schools and departments or subdivisions of a school or schools; establishes an application, plan review, approval and amendment process; authorizes exceptions to certain policies, rules, interpretations and statutes; provides for approval of the Innovation Zone plan by certain employees of a school; provides for revocation of designation and plan approval; request annual report by the WVBE; designates the order in which the WVBE must consider applications; provides for the voluntary transfer of employees; authorizes teacher job postings that exceed certain qualifications and requirements; and provides that a state institution of higher education may establish a school designated as an Innovation Zone beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

WVBE Policy 3236 edited in June, 2014 to include the following legislation: An Act to amend and reenact §18-5B-3 of the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to further amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5B-13, all relating to school innovation zones Act; providing limited priority for limited years for certain entrepreneurship education innovation zones to include at least one partner from the local business community and thereby authorizing Innovation School Districts.

Including the 2014-2015 Innovation Zone Grants there have been grants issued in 35 out of 55 counties. There have been 35 three-year grants issued and 42 one-year grants.

All applications must target one or more priority areas listed below:

Community School Partnership - The term “**community school**” means a public elementary or secondary school that participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate educational, developmental, family, health, and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public /private partnerships. Community Schools provide access to such services for students, families, and the community, such as access during the school year (including before and after-school), as well as during the summer. Some may include: Early Childhood Education Programs under the Head Start Act, including Early Head Start programs and child care; Remedial education activities and enrichment activities, including expanded learning time; Summer enrichment and learning experiences; dental health care; mental health counseling services (expanded-school mental health

Comprehensive Literacy Development (creating a school-wide elementary focus on literacy and numeracy)

Career Development (middle school focus to prepare students in the middle grades to set goals through interest and talent to view graduation as a culmination of planned activities and classes from year-to-year to result in a career pathway).

Redesign of Instructional Time (Intended to provide principals and teachers with flexibility from the constraints of certain statutes, policies and rules in order to serve as testing grounds for innovative reform strategies that enhance student success and increase accountability)

Personalize Learning through Technology (Project 24) is an urgent call to action on the need for systemic planning around the effective use of technology and digital learning to achieve the goal of "career and college readiness" for all students.

Entrepreneurship Education Innovation Zone – to include at least one partner from the local Business community and thereby authorizing Innovation School Districts.

STEM Innovation Zone - applies evidence-based approaches to a trans-disciplinary curriculum using project-based learning, differentiated instruction, and authentic assessment of mastery. The project is designed to bridge the gap between how we live and how we learn in the 21st century by blending formal schooling with cooperative learning experiences involving postsecondary education, work and informal education.

2015-2016 Innovation Zone Grants to include a STEM Priority Area: Innovation Zone Grants continue to evolve, the latest of which evolution will include a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). In a collaboration with The Education Alliance, the Office of the Governor and the West Virginia Department of Education one STEM Innovation School Grant will be funded by a portion of the dropout prevention monies designated through the State Legislature as part of this partnership for a three-year grant in the amount of \$266,000. This successful grant will contain the structure necessary to meet the requirements to be identified as a model STEM Innovation School.

The remainder of the Innovation Zone monies in the projected amount of \$2,500,000., will give counties/school(s) the ability to pick from the seven (7) priority areas (or a combination of several) including a STEM project at a school(s) to begin the possibility of becoming a STEM Innovation School.

West Virginia students have a greater interest in STEM jobs than most of their peers across the nation. According to the ACT's *The Condition of STEM 2014* report, West Virginia is one of the top performers in the percent of high school graduates who took the ACT and are interested in a future career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

"This is extremely encouraging news as we work to reach our **One Voice, One Focus: All Students Achieving Vision Plan** goal of increasing graduation and attendance rates," said Michael Martirano, West Virginia superintendent of schools. "The latest ACT STEM data tells us that high school students are engaged in the STEM fields. This data not only helps the West Virginia Board of Education and the department set the course

for future STEM initiatives, but also links into the West Virginia job market and the West Virginia Council on STEM recommendations."

In his 2015, State of the State, Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin reiterated the importance of West Virginia following the recommendations made by the final report from the West Virginia Council on STEM. The council's report highlighted the urgency for an increase in STEM education to meet future workforce demands and recommended specific ways to best address this growing need.

ACT's *The Condition of STEM 2014* report also looked at the percentage of test takers ready for college level courses. The ACT college readiness benchmarks are scores used to indicate a student has at least a 50 percent chance of getting a grade of B or higher in first-year college courses.

According to the ACT report, the percentage of West Virginia students interested in STEM meeting the ACT College Readiness Benchmark for English exceeded the nation. Seventy percent of state students met the benchmark compared to 68 percent nationally. The percentage of West Virginia students meeting the ACT College Readiness Benchmark for Reading was equal to their national peers (48 percent). More students across the nation interested in STEM met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in Mathematics (50 percent) than did West Virginia students (37 percent). The report found that more West Virginia males interested in STEM met the ACT College Readiness Benchmark in Mathematics (45 percent) than did their female classmates (30 percent).

Innovation Zone Grants awarded for 2014-2015: The success of Innovation Zone grants throughout the State is continuing to evolve through districts embracing the "community school model" and the newly designated "Entrepreneurship" Education Innovation Zone. The community school model operating in a public elementary or secondary school that participates in a community-based effort to coordinate and integrate education, developmental, family, health and other comprehensive services through community-based organizations and public and private partnerships. Entrepreneurship is the focus of the newly awarded Greenbrier County 3-year Innovation Zone grant in the amount of \$299,416. For the 2014-2015 school year. With programs including pre-engineering, visual arts, building trades, electronic media and auto body, students will seek to develop innovative and self-sustaining programs.

1. Barbour County Schools – 3-year \$300,000 – Priority areas: Career Development, Redesign of Instructional Time and Personalized Learning through Technology
2. Lincoln County Schools (Midway Elementary and Ranger Elementary) – 3-year \$300,000 – Priority areas: Community Schools and Comprehensive Literacy Development
3. McDowell County Schools (Southside K-8) – 3-year \$299,424 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership
4. Clay County Schools (H. E. White Elementary) – 3-year \$283,788 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership
5. Mercer County Schools – 3-year \$300,000 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership
6. Greenbrier County (East Greenbrier Middle, Greenbrier East High and Western Greenbrier Middle) – 3-year \$299,416. – Priority Areas: Community School Partnership and Entrepreneurship
7. Grant County Schools (Maysville Elementary School, Petersburg Elementary School, Petersburg High School, Union Educational Complex) – 3-year \$300,000. – Priority Area: Entrepreneurship

8. Mingo County Schools (Burch Middle School, Matewan PK-8 School, and Mingo Central High School) – 3-year \$285,000. – Priority Areas: Community Schools Partnership and Career Development
9. Calhoun County Schools (Arnoldsburg Elementary) – 1-year innovation zone \$86,666. – Priority Area: Comprehensive Literacy Development
10. Ohio County Schools (Madison Elementary) – 1-year innovation zone \$41,850. – Priority Area: Comprehensive Literacy Development

Note: Graduation and Dropout information will be available for 2014-2015 in December, 2015 report.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Grants for 2013-2014: Graduation rates went up in 6 out of 8 counties and Dropout Rates went down in 4 out of 8 counties

1. Cabell County Schools and June Harless School for Rural Education “Incubator School” - 3-year \$300,000 – Priority Areas: Comprehensive Literacy Development, Redesign of Instructional Time, and Community School Partnership
2. Cabell County Schools and June Harless School for Rural Education -3-year \$292,484. – Priority Areas: Redesign of Instructional Time
3. Phillip Barbour High School, Barbour County Schools, “New Tech High School” - 3-year \$300,000 – Priority Area: Personalized Learning through Technology
4. McDowell County Career and Technical Center; 1-year \$46,500 – Priority Area: Personalized Learning through Technology
5. Mary C. Snow, Stonewall Jackson, and Capital High School, Kanawha County, 3-year \$300,000
6. Cabell County Schools and June Harless School for Rural Education “Reggio Emilia Pre-K Model”; 3-year \$300,000 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership
7. Mercer County, Bluefield High, Junior and Intermediate Schools, Mercer County; 3-year \$219,499 – Priority Areas: Comprehensive Literacy Development (elementary) and Career Development (middle)
8. Randolph County Schools – 3-year \$296,480 – Priority Areas: Redesign of Instruction Time, Personalized Learning through Technology and Community School Partnership
9. Musselman High School in Berkeley County – 3- year \$283,230 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership
10. Greenbrier West High School– 3-year \$238,297 – Priority Area: Community School Partnership

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2012-13: Graduation Rates went up in 7 out of 12 eligible schools and Dropout Rates went down in 7 out of 12 eligible schools.

Note: One school was an elementary school

1. Cabell County Schools; \$285,273 (3-year)
2. Doddridge County High School; \$48,650 (1-year)
3. Fayette County Schools; \$198,955 (3-year)
4. Greenbrier West High School; \$242,425 (3-year)
5. Lincoln County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
6. Monroe County Schools; \$227,500 (3-year)
7. McDowell County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
8. Nicholas County Schools; \$69,600 (1-year)

9. Pocahontas County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
10. Putnam County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
11. Upshur County Schools; \$299,475 (3-year)
12. Union Elementary, Upshur County, \$50,000 (1-year)
13. Wheeling Park High School, Ohio County; \$30,120 (1-year)

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2011-12: The High School Graduation Improvement Act Study examines the impact of raising the dropout age from 16 to 17 beginning with the 2011-2012 freshman cohort. Graduation Rates went up in 6 out of 8 eligible schools and Dropout Rates were down in 7 out of 8 eligible schools.

Note: Difference in eligible schools are elementary and middle schools

1. Barbour County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
2. Bluefield High School, Mercer County; \$154,391 (3-year)
3. Braxton County High School, Braxton County; \$282,000 (3-year)
4. Buffalo High School, Putnam County; \$300,000 (3-year)
5. Cabell County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)
6. Independence Middle, Raleigh County; \$300,000 (3-year)
7. Kanawha County Schools; \$290,779 (3-year)
8. North Marion High School, Marion County; \$299,910 (3-year)
9. Smoot Elementary, Greenbrier County, \$50,000 (1-year)
10. Union Elementary, Upshur County; \$48,854 (1-year)
11. Wood County Schools; \$300,000 (3-year)

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2010-11:

The focus of data gathered for 2010-2011 was academic in elementary schools for one year grants -

7 out of 11 (five n/a) made gains in Math in terms of increasing the number of proficient students from the preceding school year

9 out of 11 (five n/a) made gains in Reading in terms of increasing the number of proficient students from the preceding school year

1. Cabell Elementary, Above and Beyond, Cabell County; \$50,000 (1-year)
2. Clay County High School, Clay County; \$7,500 (1-year)
3. Davis Stuart School, Greenbrier County; \$4,200 (1-year)
4. Dorcas Elementary, Grant County; \$20,000 (1-year)
5. Easton and Woodburn Elementaries, Monongalia County; \$22,500 (1-year)
6. Elk Elementary, Kanawha County; \$31,765 (1-year)
7. Fairplain Elementary, Wood County; \$46,900 (1-year)
8. Monongalia Technical Center, Monongalia County; \$3,800 (1-year)
9. North Marion High School, Marion County; \$36,600 (1-year)
10. Nutter Fort Intermediate, Harrison County; \$24,570 (1-year)
11. Pikeview Middle, Mercer County; \$41,150 (1-year)
12. Ritchie County High School, Ritchie County; \$48,465 (1-year)

13. Rupert Elementary, Greenbrier County; \$49,999 (1-year)
14. South Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson County; \$18,300 (1-year)
15. Union Elementary, Upshur County; \$40,416.58 (1-year)
16. Village of Barboursville, Cabell County; \$17,817.76 (1-year)

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zones Awards for 2009-2010: The focus of data gathered for 2009-2010 was academic in elementary schools for one year grants - 13 out of 16 (two n/a) made gains in Math in terms of increasing the number of proficient students from the preceding school year - 8 out of 16 (two n/a) made gains in Reading in terms of increasing the number of proficient students from the preceding school year. **Note: Two of the n/a schools were high schools**

1. Belmont Elementary, Pleasants County; \$45,000 (1-year)
2. Berkeley Heights Elementary, Berkeley County; \$9,100 (1-year)
3. Beverly Elementary, Randolph County; \$42,500 (1-year)
4. Braxton County High School, Braxton County; \$17,500 (1-year)
5. Cabell County Elementary Schools Consortium, Cabell County, \$50,000 (1-year)
6. Cabell County Secondary Schools Consortium, Cabell County, \$50,000 (1-year)
7. Cameron Elementary and High, Marshall County, \$49,000 (1-year)
8. Cherry River Elementary, Nicholas County; \$7,625 (1-year)
9. Hacker Valley Elementary, Webster County; \$10,850 (1-year)
10. Hometown Elementary, Putnam County; \$10,900 (1-year)
11. Lincoln High School, Harrison County; \$6,990 (1-year)
12. Mercer County Technical School, Mercer County; \$30,000 (1-year)
13. Nellis Elementary, Boone County; \$43,825 (1-year)
14. Page Jackson Elementary, Jefferson County; \$6,915 (1-year)
15. Piedmont Elementary, Kanawha County, \$27,798 (1-year)
16. Putnam County High Schools Consortium, Putnam County; \$24,000 (1-year)
17. Warm Springs Intermediate, Morgan County; \$28,255 (1-year)
18. Wheeling Park High School, Ohio County; \$11,172 (1-year)