

IC 20-25.7-4

Chapter 4. Establishment of Innovation Network Schools

IC 20-25.7-4-1

Anti-discrimination

Sec. 1. An innovation network school is subject to all applicable federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-2

Establishment of innovation network schools

Sec. 2. An innovation network school may be established in the manner provided by:

- (1) section 3 of this chapter; or
- (2) section 4 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-3

Establishment of innovation network school by teachers

Sec. 3. (a) Two (2) or more teachers and:

- (1) a principal;
- (2) a superintendent; or
- (3) any combination of individuals described in either subdivision (1) or (2);

who are currently employed by a school corporation may submit a plan to a board for the establishment of an innovation network school.

(b) In considering whether to approve a plan submitted under this section, the board may consider innovations in the following areas:

- (1) Whether the plan:
 - (A) increases teacher salaries;
 - (B) achieves financial sustainability for teacher salary increases under clause (A) by reallocating other funds, including local, private, state, or federal funds; and
 - (C) develops measures for determining how the innovations or teacher empowerment:
 - (i) improves the quality of classroom instruction; and
 - (ii) increases the attractiveness of teaching.
- (2) Class size and schedule.
- (3) Length of school day or year.
- (4) Use of technology to deliver highly effective instruction.
- (5) Staffing models for teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators.
- (6) Teacher recruitment, training, preparation, and professional development.
- (7) School governance and the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of principals in freedom to teach schools, zones,

and districts.

(8) Preparation and counseling of students for transition to higher education or careers.

(9) Whether the plan incorporates a school model that uses job redesign or technology to extend the reach of effective or highly effective teachers to more students for more pay within budget.

(c) A board that approves a plan under this section may request a grant from the state board under IC 20-25.7-7 for costs associated with the development and implementation of a plan developed under this section. The board shall apply for the grant from the state board in a manner prescribed by the state board.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-4

Establishment of innovation network school by the board

Sec. 4. (a) A board may:

(1) establish an innovation network school; or

(2) reconstitute an eligible school as an innovation network school;

as determined by the board.

(b) A board that establishes an innovation network school or reconstitutes an eligible school as an innovation network school under this section is not eligible for a grant from the state board under IC 20-25.7-7 for costs associated with the development and implementation of this section.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-5

Agreement to establish an innovation network school; terms

Sec. 5. (a) The board shall enter into an agreement with an innovation network team to establish an innovation network school or to reconstitute an eligible school as an innovation network school under section 3 or 4 of this chapter. An innovation network team may consist of or include teachers, a principal, a superintendent, or any combination of these individuals who were employed at the eligible school before the agreement is entered.

(b) The terms of the agreement must specify the following:

(1) A statement that the innovation network school is considered to be part of the school corporation and not considered a separate local educational agency.

(2) A statement that the innovation network team authorizes the department to include the innovation network school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board.

(3) The amount of state and federal funding, including tuition support, and money levied as property taxes that will be distributed by the school corporation to the innovation network school.

(4) The performance goals and accountability metrics agreed upon for the innovation network school.

(5) Grounds for termination of the agreement, including the right of termination if the innovation network team fails to:

(A) comply with the conditions or procedures established in the agreement;

(B) meet generally accepted fiscal management and government accounting principles;

(C) comply with applicable laws; or

(D) meet the educational goals set forth in the agreement between the board and the innovation network team.

(c) If an agreement is entered into under subsection (a), the board shall notify the department that an agreement has been entered into under this section within thirty (30) days after the agreement is entered into.

(d) Upon receipt of the notification under subsection (c), the department shall, for school years starting after the date of the agreement:

(1) include the innovation network school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board; and

(2) treat the innovation network school in the same manner as a school operated by the school corporation when calculating the total amount of state and federal funding to be distributed to the school corporation.

A school corporation and an innovation network school are not entitled to any state funding in addition to the amount the school corporation and school would otherwise be eligible to receive if the innovation network school were a public school maintained by the school corporation.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-6

Use of property; contents, and equipment; transportation; contracts for goods and services; terms

Sec. 6. (a) For as long as an innovation network team operates an innovation network school:

(1) the innovation network team may use the school building, the accompanying real property, and the building's contents, equipment, and supplies, as provided in the agreement established under section 5 of this chapter; and

(2) the school corporation may:

(A) provide transportation for students attending the innovation network school; and

(B) maintain and repair the buildings and grounds consistent with the maintenance and repair to the school corporation's other buildings and grounds.

(b) If an innovation network team contracts with a school

corporation for goods or services, the school corporation may not charge the innovation network team more for the goods or services than the school corporation pays for the goods or services.

(c) For as long as an innovation network team operates an innovation network school, the school corporation may distribute money levied as property taxes to the innovation network team. Property taxes distributed to an innovation network team must be used only for a purpose for which the property taxes could have been used by the school corporation. Property taxes distributed under this subsection may supplement services and property provided under subsection (a) or (b). The parties may jointly modify an agreement described in section 5 of this chapter to implement this subsection.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-7

Operational autonomy; personnel decisions; collective bargaining; participation in retirement funds

Sec. 7. (a) The innovation network team shall have full operational autonomy to run the innovation network school as provided in the agreement described in section 5 of this chapter.

(b) For any collective bargaining agreement under IC 20-29 entered into after July 1, 2015, a governing body is not bound by its collective bargaining agreement for employees of an innovation network school established under this chapter. Employees of an innovation network team may organize and create a separate bargaining unit to collectively bargain with the innovation network team under IC 20-29.

(c) Individuals employed by an innovation network school are entitled to participate in either:

- (1) the state teachers' retirement fund established under IC 5-10.4; or
- (2) the public employees' retirement fund established under IC 5-10.3.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-8

Applicability of certain statutes and rules to innovation network schools

Sec. 8. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following do not apply to an innovation network school:

- (1) An Indiana statute applicable to a governing body or school corporation.
- (2) A rule or guideline adopted by the state board, except for those rules that assist a teacher in gaining or renewing a standard or advanced license.
- (3) A local regulation or policy adopted by a school corporation unless specifically incorporated in the agreement established under this chapter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following

statutes apply to an innovation network school:

- (1) IC 20-24-8-5 (statutes applicable to charter schools).
- (2) IC 20-28-11.5 (staff performance evaluations).
- (3) IC 20-24-6 (employment of teachers and other personnel in charter schools).

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-9

Enrollment; attendance area

Sec. 9. (a) Any student who lives in the attendance area served by a school that is operated as an innovation network school under this chapter may attend the innovation network school. The innovation network school may not refuse enrollment to a student who lives in the attendance area.

(b) This subsection applies if the number of applications for a program, class, grade level, or building exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. If an innovation network school receives a greater number of applications than there are spaces for students, each timely applicant must be given an equal chance of admission.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-10

Public meeting; terms

Sec. 10. An innovation network team and the board shall hold a joint public meeting at least two (2) times each year to discuss issues and progress concerning the innovation network school.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.

IC 20-25.7-4-11

Development of program to support establishment of an innovation network school

Sec. 11. The board shall develop a program to provide support to teachers and administrators who wish to establish an innovation network school.

As added by P.L.214-2015, SEC.2.