**Falcon Middle**

**Innovation School Plan**

**Application to be designated as an Innovation School**

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Amanda Maranville, Assistant Principal

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September 23, 2011

Falcon Middle School

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***“Home of The Firebird Nation”***

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**SECTION I: Falcon Middle School Mission, Beliefs, Vision, and Purpose of Innovation**

**Mission Statement**

*Falcon Middle School, home of Firebird Nation, is committed to offering a variety of opportunities for all students to explore. Together we are committed to graduating and preparing all children for success in college and careers.*

**Belief Statement**

*One family with a rich tradition of caring for all student needs. One community of learners dedicated to challenging ourselves to grow and discover. We are one for excellence.*

**Vision Statement**

 *Falcon Middle School will rise to a new level of excellence by enhancing student achievement, promoting the Firebird Spirit, and collaborating effectively with parents and community members.*

**Purpose of Innovation**

 Reaching designation as a school of innovation will empower our staff to develop new cutting edge methods of instruction. Our school will better be able to meet the differing needs of all our learners through the continued advancements in technology and how those advancements support the classroom. We will continue to develop systems that adapt to the needs of our students and community. Indicators of student success will be adjusted to reflect what skills our students have mastered and to improve transition between elementary, middle, and high school. Falcon Middle School will continue to explore real world applications and opportunities; supporting those in the classroom with skills the students need to be successful in those endeavors.

**SECTION II: Innovations to be Implemented**

1. **Curriculum Freedom**

**Description**: In an effort to provide a variety of learning opportunities to our students and to ensure all students are being taught at the highest level, we will restructure our curriculum to focus on specific areas, skills, and/or learning styles. Teachers will develop curriculum that teaches the State Standards in a way that will reach the needs of our diverse learners. The pacing and planning of curriculum components will be determined by the school and zone curriculum leadership team based upon relevant, timely student data. The school leadership team will develop curriculum based around the following areas:

* + 1. Colorado Academic Standards and Common Core Standards
		2. Backwards-Lesson Design
		3. Data Driven Instruction
		4. Variety of Authentic Assessments
		5. Student Goal Setting
		6. Technology Literacy
		7. Response to Intervention

We at Falcon Middle School will develop and maintain a system of instruction that holds all students accountable to the highest academic standards. We will be committed to providing the appropriate academic and social supports in order to ensure all students reach these standards, and encourage all students to participate in opportunities for learning enrichment. This instructional system will be supported by an assessment system which will promote academic success for our students. Teachers, students, and parents will have a clear understanding of each student’s strengths and weaknesses so that this information can be used to promote growth and provide remediation where needed to ensure student success. Falcon Middle School will comply with all requirements related to IDEA to ensure individual learning needs of all students are met. Falcon Middle School will utilize Professional Learning Community teams to develop sound curriculum guides centered around state standards to ensure the curriculum is mapped in a logical progression to build mastery of the material for all students. Assessments will test their mastery of the standards so that instruction can be customized to push students ahead with the material and also provide remediation and intervention for learners needing the additional support.

In order to achieve this innovation goal, Falcon Middle School requests a waiver granting control over the following areas:

* Curriculum adoption
* Curriculum development
* Instructional resources and materials selection and adoption
* Curriculum review
* Basic instructional programs
* Textbook selection and adoption
1. **Standards-Based Grading**

**Description**: We at Falcon Middle School will explore various options to create a grading system outlining how we assess our students’ levels of understanding of the state standards. The goal of the grading system is to clearly define grading policies and procedures, assessment of student proficiency of skills, and the reporting of those skills to parents and students. Our staff will work to create a grading system which accurately communicates to the parents and students what skills have been taught in each area as well as the students’ level of understanding on those skills. One system we will explore further is standards-based grading. Guskey (2001) argues that standards-based grading offers important information about students’ achievement and performance. Not all aspects of a standards-based grading system fit with the vision of Falcon Middle School, so through the innovation process we will work to develop a “hybrid” of the best components of various grading systems.

In order to achieve this innovation goal, Falcon Middle School requests a waiver granting control over the following area:

* Grading and Assessment Systems
* Retention/Promotion of Students
1. **Use of Increased Technology**

**Description**: We at Falcon Middle School are aware that our students are growing up in a new age of technology. Our students have extensive opportunities through technology which include; greater access to multimedia content, the increased use of online courses, the widespread availability of mobile devices that can access the Internet, the expanding role of social networking tools for learning and professional development, as well as the large number of digital games that are made available as instructional tools. When students are using technology they are highly engaged in the learning process through the active role they must take to run the piece of technology rather than the typical, less active role in a classroom where they are asked to receive information given by a teacher or textbook. The student is actively making choices about how to gather, create, change, communicate, or display information. Technology use allows a greater number of students to be actively thinking about information. According to a study presented at the 2010 SIIA-CCSSO-ASCD Symposium “When considered systemically, technology allows for a shift from the current fragmented approach to curriculum, instruction, and assessment to a much more integrated platform that can be managed and accessed anytime, from anywhere. Technology based platforms are needed to gather and analyze assessment and other data, and to deliver multiple types of instruction through digital content and online/blended learning. Modern learning technologies efficiently identify student skills, learning styles, and preferences in an on-going way and enable delivery of a wide range of matching curriculum and learning activities to meet each student’s personalized needs.” (Wolf 1-44)

As a staff we are committed to fostering an environment that both uses technology as an instructional tool and challenges students’ technological knowledge and skills like never before. One approach to this would be to look at the possibility of incorporating the use of student tablets, such as iPads. These tablets would give students access to textbooks, e-books, multimedia content, Internet access, and word processing in addition to countless other instructional tools. The students would have everything they needed to achieve academic success right at their fingertips.

In order to achieve this innovation goal, Falcon Middle School requests a waiver granting control over the following area:

* Use of Social Media and Technology
* Information Technology Management
1. **Establishing a Falcon Middle School Fee Schedule**

**Description:**  As a staff, we understand that the current Student Fee Schedule does not accurately represent the additional expenses that a student may incur over the course of a school year. It is our goal to accurately communicate to the parents the extra costs for items such as course consumables, activities, student planners, and other “back to school” type items to allow parents budget accordingly, or to supplement with items the student may already own. As we look to incorporate more student specific technology, such as tablets, a fee may be needed for equipment rental or purchase based on the price established with these companies. In all situations involving fees, Falcon Middle School understands the importance of providing a free and fair education to all students and would work with families to ensure that this is still carried out for families unable to pay the established fees.

In order to achieve this innovation goal, Falcon Middle School requests a waiver granting control over the following area:

* Student Fee Schedule
* District Use of Real Property

**SECTION III: Improvements in Academic Achievement Expected**

**School Improvement Plan**

See the School Improvement Plan for specific details regarding student achievement goals for Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Science. The current plan that was implemented in the 2010-2011 school year designates major improvement strategies around the various curriculum areas. The action steps illustrate specific programs and instructional methods that can be used to enhance student achievement. With additional control of the curriculum, the staff at Falcon Middle School will be able to further develop these action steps and utilize a research based curriculum that meets the educational needs of our students. Standards-based grading can be used to assess what the students know and don’t know in each of these areas to provide a true picture of the knowledge and skills that should be focused on in the new school improvement plan. The increased use of Technology will help our staff members provide quality and relevant instruction while utilizing resources and materials that enhance the engagement of our students. A more detailed fee schedule will allow Falcon Middle School to enhance the level of activities that can be provided to students and also look into the opportunity of offering tablet PC’s or other computer devices to students for a set fee.

**Overall Academic Goal**

Student Achievement has been relatively flat at Falcon Middle School for the past 8 years. Colorado Student Assessment Program results have shown that in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science that our students commonly grow and decline by a couple of percentage points each year. The data has shown that the current instructional program at Falcon Middle School has to adapt to the needs of our students and correlate to the new Colorado Model Content Standards. With enhanced curriculum control within the Falcon Innovation Zone and Falcon Middle School, we will have the ability to achieve these goals and see an increase in our student achievement. We believe that from looking at our historical CSAP Data, along with the longitudinal analysis for our students, Falcon Middle School will be able to see a 7% gain across all content areas and all grade levels. This gain will demonstrate positive growth of our students for the first time in 8 years.

Other areas that will enable us to achieve a 7 percent yearly gain include; the use of the standards based grading practice to give a true picture of what knowledge and skills our students know and do not know, the enhanced use of technology along with a stronger more flexible technology infrastructure, and the control of student, athletic, and building use fees which allows us to devote additional revenue to instructional programs within the building. By putting an emphasis on instruction and removing several challenges in policy, Falcon Middle school will be able to achieve its goals in the areas of student achievement.

Staff will be able to monitor the progress of our Instructional gains through the use of Scantron Assessments three times a year and AIMS Web data for the students that we are targeting with specific instructional interventions. Teachers are currently working in instructional PLC teams to develop authentic common assessments to evaluate student progress through the new curriculum. Collectively, this data will show the increases in student achievement that we expect to see on our state assessment, which will be a direct result of the innovations we plan to implement.

**SECTION IV: Programs, Policies, and/or Operation Documents that would be affected by Innovation and the level of impact on the policies**

1. **Development of the Curriculum and Instructional Programs at Falcon Middle School**: Each of these policies would be waived to allow Falcon Middle school the decision making authority to develop curriculum that meets the needs of the students and community. The change in these policies would give this decision making authority to Falcon Middle School.
	1. Board Policy IGA – Curriculum Development
	2. Board Policy IJ – Instructional Resources and Materials Selection and Adoption
	3. Board Policy IGF – Curriculum Review
	4. Board Policy IGD – Curriculum Adoption
	5. Board Policy IHA – Basic Instructional Program
	6. Board Policy IJJ – Textbook Selection and Adoption
2. **Implementation of Standards Based Grading**: By waiving these policies, Falcon Middle School would be able to explore a standards based grading system. The program would need to reflect academic letter grades with additional criteria reflecting what the students know and don’t know. Waivers for these policies would provide Falcon Middle School with the ability to establish the grading criteria along with a policy for how to determine when a student moves to the next grade level or if they need to be held back.
	1. Board Policy IKA – Grading and Assessment Systems
	2. Board Policy IKE – Student Retention/Promotion
3. **Enhanced use of Technology at Falcon Middle School**: Each of these policies would be waived to provide teachers with instructional freedom in the use of technology. Teachers would be able to install programs on their work computers for use in the classroom without having to submit a trouble ticket. Staff would have the ability to determine what types of hardware and software can be purchased and utilized in the instructional setting. A new building policy would have to be developed that governed the use of technology devices in the classroom and around the school. Training would need to be provided to staff to ensure the proper use and student safety as they use these devices for their learning.
	1. Board Policy JICJ – Use of Social Media and Technology
	2. Board Policy EG – Information Technology Management
4. **Establishing a School Fee Schedule**: As Falcon Middle School explores various educational opportunities for activities in the classroom and the additional use of technology, it becomes necessary for Falcon Middle School to develop its own Fee Schedule that itemizes the extra costs for consumables that would be purchased. This provides parents with an accurate assessment of what the additional activities will cost, rather than posting a set grade level fee. As Falcon Middle looks to incorporate additional technology, a fee may be needed for equipment rental or purchase based on the price established with these companies. A fee schedule for building rental by outside agencies would also need to be established to ensure that adequate money is being allocated to maintaining the facilities along with some additional revenue being generated for the instructional program.
	1. Board Policy JQ & JQ-R – Student Fee Schedule
	2. Board Policy KF – Community Use of District Real Property

**SECTION V: School budget from the Previous Year and a Proposed Budget for the Innovations being Implemented**

The budget below illustrates the current year’s budget plan along with some proposed figures for the 2012-2013 school year. This budget is a rough outline of some of the possibilities we have to adjust. Additional money has been moved to technology expenses and staff professional development in anticipation of the approval of the Innovations related to curriculum and technology. The budget also projects a 10% reduction in anticipation of further cuts coming from the state level. The budget process for Falcon Middle School will become a collaborative effort between administration, staff, and the School Advisory Committee to determine true budget amounts for the upcoming school year. All of the Innovation factors will be taken into account to ensure the programs are implemented with fidelity and that we are meeting the instructional needs of our students. This budget is subject to change as new figures come in from the state and district level, along with changes in costs related to various purchases for technology and curriculum for the upcoming year.

Please see the current and projected budget on the following page.

|  |
| --- |
| **Falcon Middle School - Current & Projected Budget** |
|  | **Current** | **Projected** |
| **BUDGET LINE ITEM** | **11-12** | **12-13** |
| Instructional Technology Supplies | $2,000.00 | *$5,000.00* |
| Instructional Repairs/Maint | $5,000.00 | *$2,000.00* |
| Postage Meter Rental | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| Instructional Postage | $1,000.00 | *$800.00* |
| Instructional Class Supplies | $25,000.00 | *$15,000.00* |
| Instructional Periodicals | $4,000.00 | *$0.00* |
| Instructional Technology Equipment | $10,000.00 | *$20,000.00* |
| Instructional Association Dues/Fees | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| General Inter Dept. Charges | $500.00 | *$0.00* |
| Instructional Library/Media Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$2,000.00* |
| Instructional Library/Media Books | $2,500.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Instructional Library/Media Subscriptions | $600.00 | *$500.00* |
| Instructional Library/Media Electronic Media | $2,500.00 | *$3,000.00* |
| Art Class Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Drama Class Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Foreign Language Supplies | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| PE Repairs/Maintenance | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| PE Class Supplies | $1,500.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Vocal Music Class Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Instrumental Music Maintenance/Repairs | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| Instrumental Music Class Supplies | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| Natural Science Class Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Tech Ed Class Supplies | $4,500.00 | *$4,500.00* |
| Tech Ed Charge Backs | $500.00 | *$500.00* |
| SPED Class Supplies | $700.00 | *$500.00* |
| SPED Periodicals | $250.00 | *$0.00* |
| Athletics Travel | $250.00 | *$0.00* |
| Extra-Curricular Athletics Supplies | $17,000.00 | *$12,000.00* |
| Co-Curricular Athletics Dues/Fees | $1,850.00 | *$1,750.00* |
| Athletics Transportation PO | $3,000.00 | *$5,000.00* |
| Guidance Department Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Staff Development Travel/Workshops | $7,000.00 | *$10,000.00* |
| Staff Development Travel Workshops (O/S) | $3,000.00 | *$2,500.00* |
| Staff Development Supplies | $2,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| Secretarial Sub Pay | $800.00 | *$500.00* |
| School Administration Travel/Workshops | $2,000.00 | *$1,500.00* |
| School Administration Mileage | $100.00 | *$0.00* |
| School Administration Supplies | $1,000.00 | *$500.00* |
| School Administration Furniture | $2,000.00 | *$1,000.00* |
| School Administration Technology Equipment | $5,000.00 | *$5,000.00* |
| School Administration Dues | $1,000.00 | *$2,500.00* |
| School Administration Chgbacks | $1,000.00 | *$0.00* |
| Contingency Fund | $20,800.00 | *$17,750.00* |
| **TOTAL** | **137350** | ***124800*** |
| **\*\*\* Projected Budget projects a 10% cut in funding at the building level\*\*\*** |
| *Budget would still be adjusted based on needs determined through the* |
| *2011-2012 school year. New Budget would be approved by the Leadership Team and the FMS SAC Committee.* |

**SECTION VI: Estimation of the Cost Savings and Increased Efficiencies as a result of the Innovations**

There will be a significant change in the effective use of funding at Falcon Middle School as a result of the innovations we have described. By delegating authority to make decisions around textbook adoption, student fees, and technology use to the school we are better able to make decisions based on the specific needs of our students and staff.  As an innovation school we will work with our parents, community, and staff to set a budget that accurately represents the goals of our school and the specific needs that we have.

Currently our district uses a textbook adoption cycle where a subject area purchases a new textbook or curriculum each year for the entire district.  There are circumstances where the needs of one school may not match the needs of another and therefore the curriculum chosen may not be used to the extent it was intended. By delegating authority to our school to choose our own curriculum we eliminate the possibility of wasted money on textbooks that are not used to their full extent.  In addition to choosing not to adopt a particular textbook, with this innovation we would have the ability to choose to purchase the online version of a textbook at a discounted price, saving our school money. We would also not need to purchase the additional supplemental resources that follow the textbook curriculum.

Technology carries upfront expenses to enhance the infrastructure, acquire the needed devices, and purchase software. These expenses, which could utilize a majority of the budget upfront, would decline once the infrastructure is implemented. A minimal expense would be incurred each year to update the infrastructure to meet the constantly changing technological advancements. The purchasing of such technology would allow for a decrease in the amount of funding needed in areas such as textbooks, copy paper, copier maintenance and repairs, as well as other classroom resources and materials.

The current Student Fee Schedule does not accurately represent the exact cost of consumables, technology, and other classroom expenses. There are circumstances where the set $30 fee from the district does not cover the expenses the school incurs throughout the school year. With this innovation we would be able to set specific student fees based on the expenses of particular courses, technology, and activities. By establishing a Building Use Fee Structure for the building, Falcon Middle would be able to generate additional revenue to be used for other instructional purposes and resources within the building. This would require Falcon Middle School to also handle costs for maintaining the facilities to their standard.

**SECTION VII: Administrator, Teacher, Community, and Collaborative School Committee Evidence of Support**

On September 23, 2011, the teachers employed at Falcon Middle School voted **93**% for and **7**% against, **in favor** of designating Falcon Middle School as an Innovation School.

On September 23, 2011, the teachers employed at Falcon Middle School voted **80**% for and **20**% against, **in favor** of the Falcon Middle School Innovation Plan.

On September 26, 2011, the Falcon Middle School SAC (School Advisory Committee) voted **100**% for and **0**% against, **in favor** of designating Falcon Middle School as an Innovation School.

On September 26, 2011, the Falcon Middle School SAC (School Advisory Committee) voted **100**% for and **0**% against, **in favor** of the Falcon Middle School Innovation Plan.

The Principal, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and Administrative Assistant are in full support of Falcon Middle School’s proposal to become an Innovation School. They are also in support of Falcon Middle School’s Innovation Plan.

**SECTION VIII: Other Staff, Community, and Collaborative School Committee Evidence of Support**

September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that the paraprofessionals and classified staff members at Falcon Middle School support the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,



September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that the teaching staff at Falcon Middle School supports the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,



September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that the secretaries at Falcon Middle School support the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,



September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that the Administration at Falcon Middle School supports the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,



Brian Smith, Principal



Greg Pottorff, Assistant Principal & Athletic Director



Amanda Maranville, Assistant Principal

September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that the members of the School Advisory Committee (SAC) at Falcon Middle School support the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,



September 26, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the school board that Parents of students at Falcon Middle School support the application for Innovation Status. We feel that this plan will provide an innovative and rigorous instructional program that targets state standards and implements best practices based on research. We also feel that this plan supports the Mission and Vision of the School to provide students a variety of opportunities and prepare them for success in college and careers. We support the Innovations as stated knowing that it will provide our teachers the academic freedom needed to prepare our students for success. We strongly support the designation of Falcon Middle School as an Innovative School.

Sincerely,











September 22, 2011

Falcon D49 School Board,

The PTSA Board at Falcon Middle School would like to express its strong support for the Innovation Plan that the staff and parents of the school have created.

Throughout the process, the administration from Falcon Middle School has ensured that parents have been involved in the innovation planning for the school. We have had a strong voice in the creation of this plan and feel that this plan will provide teachers with the academic freedom they need to move this school to its next level of excellence. Student Achievement, School Spirit, and Community Involvement have all been at the forefront of the decisions that the school is making, which will enhance the environment provided for our students.

We have greatly appreciated that this plan has been one that has been created by a large contingent of the staff who have been involved since the inception of this process. We have worked side by side with the administration and staff in developing this plan and look forward to the benefits that it will provide the students of Falcon Middle School.

Sincerely,

 

PTSA President PTSA Treasurer



PTSA Secretary

**REVIEW, REVISION, RENEWAL OF INNOVATION STATUS**

The Innovation Plan, once adopted is considered for renewal every three years per the Colorado Innovative School Act. At that time, the Falcon Middle School can alter, revise, or rescind their Innovation Plan or Status with the consent of a majority of the teachers, majority of the School Advisory Committee, and a majority of the administrators employed. This is articulated in full in Section 22-32.5/110, District of Innovation – review of innovation schools and innovation school zones.

**SECTION IX: Listing of Statutory, Regulatory, and District Policy Requirements that need to be Waived**

**Colorado Revised Statutes**

To enhance the ability of Falcon Middle School to innovate, we request the following Colorado Revised Statutes to be waived:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **C.R.S.**  | **Title/Subject** | **Substantive/Delegation** | **Rationale/Replacement Plan**  |
| 22-32-109 (t) | Determine educational program and prescribe textbooks | Delegates authority to the school to establish an educational program and textbooks, and require the school to align its instructional program to state and local standards | School educational program is described in the Innovation Plan. School will be able to adapt its instructional program in alignment with state standards.  |

**District Policies**

In addition, we request the following District Policies to be waived:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| IGA | Curriculum Development | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to develop curriculum which meets/exceeds State StandardsCurriculum will be reviewed by professional staff for efficacy. Results will be reported to the Falcon Innovation Leadership Team and Falcon Zone Curriculum Team. | Building Leadership Teams will develop and utilize a collaborative process to create curriculum and monitor its effects on student achievement. The Falcon Innovation Zone Leadership Team and Curriculum Team will have full oversight of this process |
| IJ | Instructional Resources and Materials Selection and Adoption | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to select its own curriculum and instructional resources | The Principal and Faculty Leadership Team shall facilitate the selection of instructional resources and materials using a rubric-based assessment process. The community will have an opportunity to review the materials. Final approval of the instructional materials will rest with the Falcon Innovation Zone Leadership Team and Curriculum Team. |
| IGF |  Curriculum Review | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to determine the frequency and process with which curriculum will be reviewed | The Falcon Innovation Zone Leadership Team in collaboration with staff will develop a process and calendar for curriculum review.  |
| IGD | Curriculum Adoption | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to determine education programs best suited to the needs of its students | Falcon Middle School will develop and implement collaborative processes to research and adopt curriculum that meets the needs of its students. Curriculum will be evaluated in its ability to produce learners exhibiting the Falcon Zone Graduation Requirements.  |
| IHA | Basic Instructional Program | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to develop and implement a basic instructional program aligned with the Falcon Zone Graduation Requirements | Falcon Middle School will develop a collaborative process to develop, implement, and review the instructional program offered to our students. |
| IJJ | Textbook Selection and Adoption | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to select and adopt textbooks | The Falcon Innovation Zone shall create K-12 curriculum articulation teams that are grad-level and content area specific. One of the responsibilities of the curriculum articulation team will be to review and suggest textbooks to be adopted. Final decisions regarding textbook adoption shall rest with the Falcon Innovation Zone Leadership Team.  |
| IKA | Grading and Assessment Systems | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to develop and approve the grading and assessment systems for the school | Falcon Middle School shall develop, modify, and implement an assessment and grading system based on the needs of the students and community. Staff will develop common interim assessments, as well as common final exams aligned with State Standards. All assessment and grading systems shall be approved by Falcon Middle School Leadership Team.  |
| JICJ | Use of Social Media and Technology | Delegates the authority to Falcon Middle School to establish guidelines around the use of social media and technology in the classroom  | Falcon Middle School shall create a program where parents can provide permission for students to utilize various electronic devices to include, but not limited to, IPods, IPads, tablet PC’s, MP3 players, cell phones, etc., for educational purposes in the classroom. Teachers can also incorporate the use of social networking class to enhance the experience for students in the classroom. The approval of social media sites that can be used for this purpose resides with the Falcon Middle School Leadership Team. |
| EG | Information Technology Management | Delegates the authority to Falcon Middle School to establish guidelines for the implementation of new hardware and software to be used for instructional purposes | Falcon Middle school shall research and determine new types of technology needed within the building and develop a budget allowing for the periodic purchase of such hardware. Falcon Middle School staff will also have the ability to install software for use in the instructional environment to help build student engagement with the content standards. |
| IKE | Student Retention/Promotion  | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to establish guidelines and procedures around the retention and promotion of students | Falcon Middle School shall work in collaboration with parents on the determination of student retention for students not showing mastery of material in the classroom.  |
| JQ | Student Fee Schedule | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to establish and set the student fee schedule  | Falcon Middle School shall develop a student fee schedule annually based on the costs of consumables and extra services that are necessary for successful implementation of the instructional program. The fees will be established to show true costs of the necessary supplies rather than a general listed amount. The fee schedule shall be approved by the Falcon Middle School Leadership Team and School Advisory Committee each year. |
| JQ-R | Student Fee Schedule  | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to establish and set the student fee schedule | Falcon Middle School shall develop a student fee schedule annually based on the costs of consumables and extra services that are necessary for successful implementation of the instructional program. The fees will be established to show true costs of the necessary supplies rather than a general listed amount. The fee schedule shall be approved by the Falcon Middle School Leadership Team and School Advisory Committee each year. |
| KF | District Use of Real Property | Delegates authority to Falcon Middle School to establish and set a fee schedule for the rental of Falcon Middle School facilities and govern the use of the money collected to enhance various program offerings at the school | Falcon Middle School shall develop a building use fee schedule that includes the cost of maintaining the facilities while also generating additional revenue for the school and its programs. The fee schedule will be approved by the Falcon Middle School Leadership Team and School Advisory Committee each year. |

**SECTION X: Description of how the waived statutes and policies shall be held accountable to the state for compliance**

If the listed waivers for Falcon Middle School are approved, then Falcon Middle School will establish a protocol for oversight and accountability to ensure compliance with the state. In each of the areas for Innovation: Curriculum Control, Standards-Based Grading, Use of Technology, and Establishing a Fee Schedule, Falcon Middle School will ensure that appropriate groups within the school community are involved for accountability. Falcon Middle School staff will explore the education decisions related to these Innovations and report their findings and ideas to various teams within the building. Ultimately the Leadership Team at Falcon Middle School will make decisions as to the systems that will be implemented within the building. This team is composed of teachers from each grade level, the exploratory program, special education, and representation from classified staff. The administration will then take the ideas to the School Advisory Committee to ensure accountability to the Mission and Vision of the building. The SAC Board will also ensure that the components relate to the objectives of the Innovation plan. The School Advisory Board will also act as a liaison to the community to ensure parent input is included in the educational decisions impacting our students.

Each of the waivers as stated incorporate a replacement plan and rationale to identify specific accountability measures for the Innovation.

**SECTION XI: Collective Bargaining**

Falcon Middle School’s plan does not have any impact on the collective bargaining agreements.

**References**

"Board Policies." *Falcon School District 49*. Falcon District 29, 29/09/2011. Web. 29 Sep 2011. <http://falcon49.schoolfusion.us/modules/cms/pages.phtml?pageid=243780&sessionid=dab5706f 7023157a34355e8ff2fd891&sessionid=dab5706fb7023157a34355e8ff2fd891>.

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Guskey, Thomas. "Helping Standards Make the Grade." *Educational Leadership*. 59.20-7 (2001): n. page. Web. 29 Sep. 2011. <http://course1.winona.edu/lgray/el626/Articlesonline/Guskey\_helping.html>.

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