



End-of-Clock Pathway Guidance Innovation Plan

The pathway guidance documents are intended to help districts and schools understand the Accountability Clock pathways outlined in the Education Accountability Act of 2009. Please send any comments or questions to Nate Goss at Goss_N@cde.state.co.us.

		District Pathway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School Pathway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Overview of Pathway	Pathway Definition	<p>The Innovation Schools Act provides a path for schools and districts to design and implement innovative ideas and practices to better meet student needs. Innovation schools can obtain waivers from state and local policies and collective bargaining agreements that challenge their ability to execute their ideas and enables flexibilities in the areas of governance, school personnel, and educational program</p>	
	Colorado statutory reference	<p>If a district fails to make substantial progress under its turnaround plan or has been in the accredited with priority improvement plan category or lower for five consecutive years, the State Review Panel may evaluate the school district and recommend:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>“That one or more of the district public schools be granted status as an innovation school pursuant to section 22-32.5-104 or that the local school board recognize a group of district public schools as an innovation school zone pursuant to section 22-32.5-104” C.R.S. §22-11-209(2)(a)(I)(D)</i></p> <p>If a school fails to make adequate progress under its turnaround plan or continues to operate under a priority improvement or turnaround plan for five consecutive years, the State Review Panel may evaluate the school and recommend:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>“With regard to a district public school, that the district public school be granted status as an innovation school pursuant to section 22-32.5-104” C.R.S. §22-11-210(5)(a)(IV)</i></p>	



	<p>What is non-negotiable?</p>	<p>As with all public schools, innovation schools are accountable to federal and state laws and are required to implement the Colorado Academic Standards. The Innovation Schools Act of 2008 (C.R.S. § 22-32.5-101 et al.) details the requirements of becoming an innovation school. Visit CDE’s website for guidance: http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools</p>
	<p>What is flexible?</p>	<p>Innovation schools can seek different types of autonomies, usually in the areas of personnel and educational program, which will be outlined in the innovation plan that is approved by the local school board and the State Board of Education</p>
	<p>What other pathways can this be combined with?</p>	<p>Innovation plans are often combined with other school improvement and turnaround strategies. Innovation status is most effective when it is helping a school reach their core vision. In the past, the State Board of Education has directed orders to implement combined innovation and partial management plans as well as innovation plans that have added a focus on creating a community school as part of the innovation plan.</p>
<p>Rationale for Selecting this Pathway</p>	<p>For which causes of underperformance might this pathway be selected?</p>	<p>Innovation plans provide flexibility to address particular or unique needs. Plans may be successful in situations where the need at a school is particularly unique in comparison to other schools in the district, additional flexibility in any of the Four Domains for Rapid School Improvement (Leadership, Talent, Instruction, Culture) will support stronger alignment to the school’s mission, or the school design and vision requires unique or different practices.</p>
<p>Governance Implications</p>	<p>What governance and oversight structures are associated with this pathway?</p>	<p>The district board of education is required to review the innovation school’s performance every 3 years to determine if the school is meeting or making adequate progress towards achieving the academic performance goals identified in the approved innovation plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An innovation school is overseen by district staff.



	<p>What is the role of the local board in implementing this strategy? For charters, what are the roles of the charter school governing board and the authorizing board in effectively implementing this strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The district remains accountable for the performance of the school. • 60% of school staff, administration, and School Accountability Committee must consent to becoming an innovation school before it can be approved. If the school will open for the first time as a school of innovation, the innovation plan must indicate when a vote will be taken with the new staff that will be hired. • In the Innovation Plan, any flexibility from district policies or procedures and/or the collective bargaining agreement is outlined, as well as the plans to do those things differently. • In the Innovation Plan, any waivers requested from the state are outlined with accompanying replacement plans
<p>Funding Considerations</p>	<p>What are the financial considerations associated with this strategy?</p>	<p>School planning and implementation may require financial investment to successfully accomplish the innovations desired. The innovation plan budget would specify whether the district would be responsible for any up-front costs or if the school would fundraise, obtain grants or reallocate other funding streams to cover these costs. With many existing innovation schools, the district did not provide any additional funding to what was already being provided prior to becoming an innovation school.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>What resources would be helpful to look at if considering this pathway?</p>	<p>More information about the innovation pathway is available in the innovation pathway rubric document on the Accountability Clock website.</p> <p>To see materials from State Board of Education hearings for schools and districts proposing a pathway, visit the State Board Accountability Actions website.</p>
<p>CDE Contact Information</p>	<p>Who at CDE should a district contact for more information about this pathway?</p>	<p>Visit CDE’s Schools of Choice contact webpage to determine the appropriate point of contact.</p>