



NMPED Innovation Zones Application Template



2023-2024 School Year



Vision for Innovation Zones

New Mexicans have long valued local wisdom and worked to integrate that wisdom into the education system. Doing so ensures that schools are more responsive to communities - a key remedy in the Yazzie/Martinez lawsuit. This approach is rooted in an understanding that the health and prosperity of New Mexico communities depends on local leaders' capacity to orient young people to the wisdom of the places they call home.

For Innovation Zones, the vision is clear: students will be successful because of - not in spite of - who they are and where they come from.

Schools in Innovation Zones reimagine the student experience of learning by cultivating reciprocity between schools, youth, and community, weaving local assets, and implementing critical changes to how young people are engaged - leading to meaningful outcomes that benefit the community.

Young people in Innovation Zones learn-by-doing in supportive, hopeful, trusting environments and successfully navigate challenging college and career pathways that lead to desired next steps after high school.

Innovation Zones Tools and Goals

Tools

Challenging College and Career Pathways, High-Quality Technical Education Integrated with Core Academics, Profiles of a Graduate, Capstone Experiences, Work-Based Learning, Support for College and Career Pathways Navigation, NM College and Career Pathways Alliance, NM High School Transformation Coalition

Goals

- * Innovation Zone schools provide community-driven learning opportunities connected to prior lived-experiences, language, and culture. Instruction and innovation are driven by locally-developed graduate profiles and all students have equitable access to meaningful and relevant capstone experiences.
- * Innovation Zone schools build challenging college and career pathways by integrating high-quality technical education, work-based learning, and core academics - both inside and outside of the school building. Pathways are accessible to all students, connected to graduate profiles, and assessed by meaningful, locally-developed capstone experiences. Students exhibit agency in navigating pathways and have meaningful opportunities to reflect on their progress.
- * Innovation Zone schools integrate robust academic, social, emotional, and wellbeing supports into the student experience with clear evidence of student voice and personalization in design.
- * Innovation Zones schools cultivate a culture of belonging, safety, and care for all students. Adults are trustworthy, demonstrate trust in students, and are hopeful about future possibilities for all young people.

NMPED Innovation Zones Application

Innovation zone applicants will utilize a self-assessment rubric to evaluate current practice and develop a 10 minute presentation to a panel of experts describing how they will partner with the Public Education Department to provide technical, financial, and capacity-building supports up to \$200,000 needed to realize the goals of the community and move toward innovative practice.

If there is remaining funding after all planning grants are distributed, a supplemental grant process will be available for additional support.

The content of the slide deck should compliment the presentation but can also contain more elaborate information to be considered for application scoring purposes.

Innovation Zones FAQ

1. Proposals should be built upon and emphasize what is currently working for the young people in your school. This is particularly important if what works in your school addresses the core findings of the Yazzie Martinez Lawsuit.
2. Proposals should focus on a three year strategy to incorporate the elements identified in this template (WBL, Capstones, CTE, Graduate Profiles, etc.).
3. Applicants are not required to have any of the components of the Innovation Zone initiative in place before applying. This initiative is based on building a transformation strategy that incorporates the component parts over time - not just in the first year. The emphasis at your school should be on learning and proposals should include a plan to adapt over time based on the data/information you collect.
4. If your school is also receiving Community Schools funding, the innovation should integrate Community Schools strategies. This template, and the self assessment rubric, are organized using the six essential practices of Community Schools to enhance integration.
5. If your school was part of the pilot project your plan must incorporate the SEL4NM recommendations.

Application Resources and Timeline

Resources:

- [Innovation Zone self-assessment rubric](#), for presentation development
- Innovation Zone Spring Budget Workshop [Slide Deck](#)
- Innovation Zone Application Scoring [Rubric](#)
- Innovation Zone [Intent to Apply](#)
- [Application graphic organizer](#) to support presentation development
- [Application webinar recording](#), April 18

Important dates:

- April 17: Intent to apply is posted to PED website
- April 18: 2:30-3:30: application webinar for new and returning IZ cohort members ([Zoom](#))
- April 25: 2:30-3:30: optional office hours ([Zoom](#))
- May 1st, 11:59pm: Intent to apply window closes
- May 2: 2:30-3:30: optional office hours ([Zoom](#))
- May 15: Presentations to Innovation Zone application review panels begin
- June 1: Review panels finalize scores
- June 9: Successful applicants notified
- July: begin innovation

Locally Developed High School Innovation

This slide deck is a template to support High Schools in creating a 10 minute presentation to a panel of experts as part of an application to receive up to a \$200,000 planning grant from the New Mexico Public Education Department to support and amplify locally-developed innovation designed to improve the student experience of learning.

Prompt 1: What is your high school's proposed innovation?

Powerful Student and Family Engagement with Shared Power and Voice

How have students been consulted to develop the vision for innovation in your high school?

What data did you use to determine the innovation required to change the student experience in high school?

What are the local assets in the community and building blocks that you will start with? What is working for the young people in your school?

Expanded and Culturally Enriched Learning Opportunities

How will your proposed innovation weave together the expanded and culturally enriched learning strategies identified by the Innovation Zones Initiative?

- challenging college and career pathways
- core academics enriched with learning-by-doing
 - work-based learning
 - high-quality technical education

What is the plan for students to exhibit agency in navigating pathways and to have meaningful opportunities to reflect on their progress?

Meaningful Community Connected Instruction

A graduate profile outlines the knowledge, skills, and attributes that the local community identifies as important for graduates to have when they exit high school. A graduate profile often includes competencies beyond traditional academics, including employability skills, social-emotional skills, and students' cultural and linguistic identities and sense of belonging.

Prompting questions:

- Do you have a graduate profile already developed?
- How was your graduate profile developed? Who did you consult? How did you collect input from your community? Who analyzed the data to identify the knowledge, skills, and attributes in the profile?
- If you do not yet have a graduate profile, how might you develop one? How will students be involved in its creation?

Meaningful Community Connected Instruction

A capstone is a months-long project rooted in authentic contexts and building on local assets and culture. Students engage in active, self-directed, and community-based learning experiences to produce a body of work that teachers periodically assess for evidence of competence. Capstones result in public exhibitions of learning to school, family, and community.

Prompting questions:

- Do you already have a community-centered capstone? If so, who has access to the capstone learning and assessment opportunity?
- How might a community-centered capstone change the learning experience for all students in your school?
- In what ways will a capstone experience celebrate the culture, language, and lived experiences of students in your school?
- How are or how will students be engaged in developing the capstone learning and assessment experience?
- In what ways does your school already partner with your larger community?

Integrated Systems of Support

What systems of support does your school currently offer to integrate robust academic, social, emotional, and wellbeing supports into the student experience?

Will any of these supports need to be modified or more fully integrated into the the student experience in order to amplify the impact of your proposed innovation?

Do young people have a voice in the design of these supports? Are they personalized to individual students? How will SEL be prioritised?

Culture of Belonging, Safety and Care

How will your proposed innovation cultivate a culture of belonging, safety and care for the school community?

How will the innovation build on a culture where adults are trustworthy, demonstrate trust in students, and are hopeful about future possibilities for all young people?

Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

IZ schools will develop a program evaluation plan that demonstrates community-connected outcomes related to the student experience of learning and have a plan to scale innovation over time.

The program evaluation plan will include clear methods for inclusion of student, adult, and community voice and feedback. The plan will include accountability measures specific to equitable outcomes for underserved students (i.e. graduation, credentials/certifications, viable employment, postsecondary enrollment and graduation, median income, etc.).

Innovation Zones Budget

What are the funding sources you will use to financially support this innovation? (i.e. Community Schools Grant, Federal COVID Funds, Family Income Index Support, SEG, Title Funds, Local Funding, Non-Profit Grants, etc.)

How will the planning grant for Innovation Zones amplify your innovative effort and support blending and braiding of additional resources to meet the goals of the innovation for FY24?

What additional support do you need from the Public Education Department, Future Focused Education, SEL4NM and the LANL Foundation to meet the goals of the innovation?

Scaling Innovation Over Time

Contingent upon continued funding from the NM Legislature - after year one, and required for additional funding, IZ schools will report on progress for criteria 1-3 on the self assessment rubric, at a minimum. After year two, and required for additional funding, IZ schools will report on progress for criteria 1-6 and provide baseline data for program evaluation. After year three, IZ schools will develop a capstone project that will be presented to the HS Transformation Coalition and NM College and Career Pathways Alliance to demonstrate learning over the course of participating in an Innovation Zone along with plans to sustain, scale, and assess the innovation over time.