

Innovation Council

In July of 2015, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) created an Innovation Council. Over the past few months, this select group of individuals has delved into the discussion of educational innovation in the state of Michigan.

In order to assist in this endeavor, the MDE has developed a process to allow districts to propose new models of innovation. The Council is embedded within this process, and will act as an intermediary for districts to present new models of innovation for review and recommendation to the State Superintendent.

The Innovation Council is composed of a diverse group of individuals from around the state. Representatives on the council include local educators, superintendents, county pupil accounting auditors, private sector agents, and numerous subject matter experts from the MDE. The goal of the council is to foster innovative projects and practices across the state leading to improved student outcomes. In order to reach this objective, the council is designed to be a supportive body that can advise districts on how to best formulate their creative models.

The Council will assist local public school districts and intermediate school districts in the following ways:

1. Serve in an advisory and problem solving capacity for innovative proposals.
2. Review proposals for innovative projects and make a recommendation to the State Superintendent for approval or denial.
3. Develop legislative agendas to support increased innovation.
4. Gather and disseminate information regarding flexible and creative programming in education.

The Innovation Council will release an official announcement in January 2016, which will include the application, timelines, and review process. The opportunity for districts to communicate and propose ideas will be addressed further in the upcoming communication. The Council anticipates it will begin accepting applications electronically starting February of 2016.

The members of the Innovation Council are looking forward to reviewing innovative proposals from districts throughout the state. In addition, please look for the council's webpage in January of 2016.