

Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability Report
Senate Bill 228- Innovation Zone Legislation
W.Va. Code 18-2-5B and WVBE Policy 3236
December, 2013

The legislative rule authorizes the West Virginia Board of Education to designate education Innovation Zones in Schools, groups of schools and departments or subdivisions of a school or schools; establishes an application, plan review, approval and amendment process; authorizes exceptions to certain policies, rules, interpretations and statutes; provides for approval of the Innovation Zone plan by certain employees of a school; provides for revocation of designation and plan approval; request annual report by the WVBE; designates the order in which the WVBE must consider applications; provides for the voluntary transfer of employees; authorizes teacher job postings that exceed certain qualifications and requirements; and provides that a state institution of higher education may establish a school designated as an Innovation Zone beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

The intent and purpose is to:

- improve educational performance;
- provide principals and teachers greater flexibility by removing certain policy, rule, interpretive and statutory constraints;
- provide a testing ground for innovative educational programs at the school level;
- provide information regarding the effects of those innovations;
- document educational strategies that enhance student success;
- and increase the accountability of public schools for student achievement as measured by the state assessment and local assessments.

The High School Graduation Improvement Act Study examines the impact of raising the dropout age from 16 to 17 beginning with the 2011-2012 freshman cohort.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zones Awards for 2009-2010:

Belmont Elementary, Pleasants County; \$45,000
Berkeley Heights Elementary, Berkeley County; \$9,100
Beverly Elementary, Randolph County; \$42,500
Braxton County High School, Braxton County; \$17,500
Cabell County Elementary Schools Consortium, Cabell County, \$50,000
Cabell County Secondary Schools Consortium, Cabell County, \$50,000
Cameron Elementary and High, Marshall County, \$49,000
Cherry River Elementary, Nicholas County; \$7,625
Hacker Valley Elementary, Webster County; \$10,850
Hometown Elementary, Putnam County; \$10,900
Lincoln High School, Harrison County; \$6,990
Mercer County Technical School, Mercer County; \$30,000
Nellis Elementary, Boone County; \$43,825
Page Jackson Elementary, Jefferson County; \$6,915
Piedmont Elementary, Kanawha County, \$27,798
Putnam County High Schools Consortium, Putnam County; \$24,000
Warm Springs Intermediate, Morgan County; \$28,255
Wheeling Park High School, Ohio County; \$11,172

Table 1

2009-10 Designated School Innovation Zones Progress Reported

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	WESTEST 2 Math Proficient			WESTEST 2 Reading Proficient		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Belmont Elementary \$45,000	Focus on student leadership and character education to increase students' account-ability and build a culture of continuous improvement.	38.54	32.90	53.7	39.74	35.44	44.8
Berkeley Heights Elementary \$9,100	Third grade teachers integrating the curriculum by utilizing novels that enhance the study of science and social studies.	28.56	39.37	41.5	35.40	51.18	38.6
Beverly Elementary \$42,500	Creating a 21 st learning environment in which all stakeholders are learners through professional learning communities with a focus on global studies and technology integration.	36.27	36.79	46.1	42.46	42.45	43.1
Braxton County High \$17,500	Increase the graduation rate by providing students with options and making connections to course work and post-secondary success.	32.31	39.05	36.8	27.00	37.93	30.1
Cabell County Elementary Consortium \$50,000	Collaboration of eight elementary schools in professional learning communities to increase meaningful student engagement.	41.06	38.25	46.4	39.90	41.20	50.0
Cabell County High School Consortium \$50,000	Personalization of the high school experience through differentiating graduation requirements and providing flexibility in earning credits.	37.42	43.36	46.4	39.50	51.26	50.
Cameron Elementary and High School \$49,000	Implementation of a modified calendar to increase student learning time and improve academic achievement PK-12.	41.02	40.86	46.5	39.73	45.04	44.4
Cherry River Elementary \$7,625	Restructuring of school day to provide time for building professional learning communities to support and eliminate time as a barrier to increase student learning	36.88	41.00	47.5	31.05	39.00	47.5

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	WESTEST 2 Math Proficient			WESTEST 2 Reading Proficient		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Hacker Valley Elementary \$10,850	A four-tiered approach to intergenerational learning and meaningful relationships.	48.56	54.28	50.0	71.42	71.42	50.0
Hometown Elementary \$10,900	Project-based courses in Pre-K-3 rd grade including robotics, automation and programming to develop a technology-rich learning lab.	39.98	51.51	37.1	57.76	72.72	51.4
Lincoln High \$6,990	Project based learning environment to increase rigor in Physical Science and Algebra.	32.14	36.36	38.1	35.40	51.18	47.8
Mercer County Technical \$30,000	Transitioning to a technical high school by integrating core curriculum subjects into CTE programs of study.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nellis Elementary \$43,825	Year round program involving the entire school community to combine rigorous academic practices with a wide variety of physical activities and cultural experiences.	32.64	38.22	58.1	30.60	32.34	51.2
Page Jackson Elementary \$6,915	Collaborative effort with WVU and local Doctor to pilot a multi-use trail with a flower and vegetable garden.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Piedmont Elementary \$27,798	Personalized education plans involving authentic assessments, service learning and a variety of learning centers.	30.83	33.00	55.5	28.68	43.68	43.3
Putnam County High Schools Consortium \$24,000	Freshman transition program to include data rooms that allow teachers to target and address specific student needs	56.07	58.29	62.6	52.98	56.66	60.1
Warm Springs Intermediate \$28,255	Provide a learning café to entice students to read and engage in virtual field trips	35.67	32.54	41.9	34.45	33.09	44.2
Wheeling Park High Extended CTE Program \$11,172	Four week summer camp for incoming 9 th graders in career and technical courses for in-depth exploration.	45.55	42.41	51.1	49.76	50.42	56.1

Review of Data Conclusion Year One 2009-2010:

13 out of 16 (two n/a) made gains in Math in terms of percentage of the students who were proficient.
 8 out of 16 (two n/a) made gains in Reading in terms of percentage of the students who were proficient.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2010-11:

- Cabell Elementary, Above and Beyond, Cabell County;
- Clay County High School, Clay County; \$7,500
- Davis Stuart School, Greenbrier County; \$4,200
- Dorcas Elementary, Grant County; \$20,000
- Easton and Woodburn Elementaries, Monongalia County; \$22,500
- Elk Elementary, Kanawha County; \$31,765
- Fairplains Elementary, Wood County; \$46,900
- Monongalia Technical Center, Monongalia County; \$3,800
- North Marion High School, Marion County; \$36,600
- Nutter Fort Intermediate, Harrison County; \$24,570
- Pikeview Middle, Mercer County; \$41,150
- Ritchie County High School, Ritchie County; \$48,465
- Rupert Elementary, Greenbrier County; \$49,999
- South Jefferson Elementary, Jefferson County; \$18,300
- Union Elementary, Upshur County; \$40,416.58
- Village of Barboursville, Cabell County; \$17,817.76

Table 2

2010-11 Designated School Innovation Zones Progress Reported

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	WESTEST 2 Math Proficient			WESTEST 2 Reading Proficient		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Clay County High School \$7,500	Implement an on-line credit recovery program to allow previous dropouts, regardless of age, to receive a Clay County diploma. This would be a prototype for dropout re-entry in West Virginia.	41.1	39.6	35.5	39.8	39.6	35.6
Davis-Stuart School \$4,200	Implement a personalized education plan for each student's plan of study for utilizing the proposed academic fitness trail. This is the first Institutional Education School to be selected.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dorcas Ele. \$20,000	Implement linking and looping for split grade classrooms.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Easton & Woodburn Elementary Consortium \$25,500	Implement Project Based Learning through green curriculum technology and schools.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	WESTEST 2 Math Proficient			WESTEST 2 Reading Proficient		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Elk Elementary \$31,765	Implement courtyard projects that integrate music and dance into content areas.	38.4	40.5	50.2	47.9	47.3	51.7
Fairplains Elementary \$46,900	Fairplains' Leadership Framework serves to help meet social and community needs in addition to academic benefits.	41.1	42.0	44.5	41.9	49.7	50.9
Monongalia County Tech Education Center \$3,800	Develop before-school vocational technology unit for at-risk middle school students.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nutter Fort Intermediate \$24,570	Develop a standard-by-standard assessment to replace the letter grade system in order to provide meaningful feedback on student progress.	45.4	39.8	44.8	42.8	45.6	48.7
Pikeview Middle \$41,150	Implement Project Based Learning as a vehicle to blend four school communities together to create a cohesive consolidated school.	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	53.1
Ritchie County High \$48,465	Implement a supplemental reading course within the curriculum for low performing students to take in the fall prior to 9th grade English and Social Studies courses. This course will be part of a Reading-Language Arts block.	33.9	39.5	36.1	35.0	38.5	44.3
Rupert Elementary \$49,999	Utilize high-interest trade books and the motivational Success for All program to provide a non-graded reading environment to instill the love of reading.	64.9	69.1	54.8	57.4	61.7	62.4
South Jefferson Elementary \$18,300	Incorporate Project Based Learning to develop and utilize an outdoor classroom to address behavior that impedes learning.	38.5	38.5	48.8	36.6	40.9	52.2
Union Elementary \$40,416.58	iGlobe: genre-based literacy study to engage students in language arts.	53.2	49.0	47.8	57.4	58.2	55.4
Cabell Elem Above and Beyond \$20,000	Develop PLC environments that encourage professional growth, utilize common formative assessments and create fluid classrooms to meet the needs of	44.1	42.4	47.8	41.7	46.0	47.7

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	WESTEST 2 Math Proficient			WESTEST 2 Reading Proficient		
		2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
all students.							
North Marion High \$36,600	New Tech High School pilot project will create a non-traditional environment that measures student success by completion of projects that embed technology and content standards.	40.1	43.7	44.6	40.0	45.6	47.7
Village of Barboursville \$17,817.76	"Get Synergized through Science" provides students the opportunity to learn science content while incorporating reading and language arts instruction as well as mathematical concepts in relevant, practical ways.	49.5	47.3	52.0	47.8	54.5	63.2

Review of Data Conclusion Year Two 2010-2011:

7 out of 11 (five n/a) made gains in Math in terms of percentage of the students who were proficient.

9 out of 11 (five n/a) made gains in Reading in terms of percentage of the students who were proficient.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2011-12:

- Barbour County Schools; \$300,000
- Bluefield High School, Mercer County; \$154,391
- Braxton County High School, Braxton County; \$282,000
- Buffalo High School, Putnam County; \$300,000
- Cabell County Schools; \$300,000
- Independence Middle, Raleigh County; \$300,000
- Kanawha County Schools; \$290,779
- North Marion High School, Marion County; \$299,910
- Smoot Elementary, Greenbrier County, \$50,000
- Union Elementary, Upshur County; \$48,854
- Wood County Schools; \$300,000

Table 3

2011-12 Designated School Innovation Zone Progress Reported

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	Graduation Rates			Dropout Rates (County)		
		2011/12	12/13	13/14	2011	2012	2013
Buffalo High Putnam County \$300,000	Buffalo High School will create a new educational environment that will re-imagine teaching and learning with an innovative curriculum that empowers the students and integrates technology.	81.5	85.	90.1	1.1%	1.0%	.05%

	The New Tech Model along with a new agricultural science program will provide project based learning opportunities with community support.						
Independence Middle School Raleigh County \$300,000	Independence Middle School will partner with the WVDE to pilot an early warning system. After-school enrichment and follow up programs will be provided to at-risk students to increase motivation and connect them to their families and community.	79.1	Independence High		2.0%	2.0%	1.9%
			81.5	82.8			
North Marion High \$299,910	North Marion High School will continue to build strong community and business support, groundbreaking partnerships with parents, and a team oriented focus on learning between teachers and students.	74.	83.2	83.6	2.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Barbour County Schools \$300,000	Barbour County Schools will transform into a 21 st Century school system through personalized pathways and guidance that enable students to obtain high levels of academic mastery and beyond. The implementation of <i>The Leader in Me</i> , Rachel's Challenge, and the New Tech model will provide the support necessary for their long term success.	79.3	72.8	89.6	4.5%	1.9%	1.4%
Bluefield High Mercer County \$154,391	Bluefield High School will implement base 9 and a 9 th grade academy to nurture a culture of high expectations, academic support, and to cultivate positive parent relations.	66.9	70.6	75.	1.9%	2.0%	1.5%
Wood County Schools \$300,000	Wood County Schools will focus on the 9 th grade transition year to implement <i>ENGAGE: Engaging Freshman to Educate, Graduate, and Achieve Post-Secondary Goals</i> . This three-tiered initiative will create meaningful peer and adult relationships, academic and social support, and community involvement	Parkersburg High 79%	78.2	80.	1.3%	0.9%	1.1%
Parkersburg South 84.1%	80.3	82.					
Williamstown High 86.5%	91.2	90.					

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	Graduation Rates			Dropout Rates (County)		
		2011/12	12/13	13/14	2011	2012	2013
Kanawha County Schools \$290,779	Kanawha County Schools will implement an elementary alternative education project that will provide interventions to at-risk students who have been expelled, suspended, and/or have multiple violations of school policies and rules. Students will receive interventions according to their academic, social, and emotional needs along with family intervention and support.		Does not apply as this is an elementary project				
Cabell County Schools \$300,000	Cabell County Schools will develop a new community wide initiative with an emphasis on early warning data, early intervention efforts, and customer service. Raised the dropout age to 18	Cabell Midland 75.4% Huntington High 68.6% County 71%	76.7 66.2 72.	82.3 65.2 74.	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Braxton County High School \$282,000	Braxton County High School will create a successful education experience for students by unifying students with the school and community. A student support coordinator will collaborate with the school and the community to locate and organize community resource opportunities.	80.8	84.9	86.6	1.7%	1.5%	1.3%
Smoot Elementary \$50,000	Smoot Elementary School will implement a mentoring program called <i>Smoot Smokies</i> STEM to improve health awareness, academic remediation in mathematics and science, and a strong sense of self and self-efficacy.	n/a Elementary Program	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Union Elementary \$48,854	Union Elementary School will expand their reading program to integrate the arts. Students will be paired with a community mentor to serve as their reading buddy. Service Learning projects will engage students in the community and develop good citizenship.	n/a Elementary Program (see reading and math scores in 2010-11)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Review of Data Conclusion Year Two 2011-2012:

8 out of 8 (three n/a) increased the graduation rate
 6 out of 8 (three n/a) decreased the county dropout rate

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2012-13:

- Cabell County Schools; \$285,273
- Doddridge County High School; \$48,650
- Fayette County Schools; \$198,955
- Greenbrier West High School, Greenbrier County; \$242,425
- Lincoln County Schools; \$300,000
- Monroe County Schools; \$227,500
- McDowell County Schools; \$300,000
- Nicholas County Schools; \$69,600
- Pocahontas County Schools; \$300,000
- Putnam County Schools; \$300,000
- Upshur County Schools; \$299,475
- Union Elementary, Upshur County, \$50,000
- Wheeling Park High School; \$30,120

Table 4

2012-13 Designated School Innovation Zone Progress Reported

School/ Grant Award	Innovation Zone Summary	Graduation Rates			Dropout Rates (County)		
		2011/12	12/13	13/14	2011	2012	2013
Cabell County Schools \$285,273	This grant focuses on “Bridges out of Poverty” initiative, a school-based juvenile probation officer, and a partnership with <i>Success by Six</i> to bring the Imagination Library to the families of children ages birth to 5 Raised the dropout age to 18	Cabell 75.4% Midland 68.6% Huntington County 71%	76.7 66.2 72.	82.3 65.2 74.	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%
Doddridge County High School \$46,650	<i>Learning to Make a Difference</i> is community based learning activities, two hour block one a month of students to be involved in service learning projects.	92.2%	78.4	88.24	1.1	2.1	1.7
Greenbrier West High School \$242,425	Serving 120 of GWHS’s 415 students through an innovative after school program and seeks to engage all students through school-wide and community arts performances, advertisement and marketing of artistic work, recordings, and other activities.	73.6	79.3	86.3	1.6	0.9	0.9

Lincoln County Schools \$300,000	A dropout prevention request to fund a third high school counselor to bring the high school in line with the recommended student-to-counselor ratio, and to serve as a dropout specialist to lead the countywide collaborative effort.	75.2	80.9	77.	2.2	1.7	2.3
McDowell County Schools \$300,000	Hire a social worker at River View High School for the 9 th grade academy, mentoring program, and job shadowing	74.	72.	79.3	4.6	2.9	1.9
Nicholas County Schools \$69,600	This program allows students of any grade to attend school on Saturday to erase up to two days of unexcused absences per semester from their attendance record. All grade levels	75.2	87.	80.2	2.2	1.1	1.0
Pocahontas County Schools \$300,000	Innovation Community Education (ICE) – activities and learning opportunities off campus at local sites such as Fire Dept., Community Center and Libraries. <i>Warrior Wrap Program</i> – advisor-advisee, recreation, social and educational opportunities available at various hubs throughout the county.	85.7	89.5	80.2	1.3	1.9	0.8
Upshur County Schools \$299,475	Address school climate. Add undecided career pathway in addition to professional and skilled pathways, allowing students to further explore course and career options without restrictions.	70.4	72.6	78.3	3.7	3.1	1.6
Wheeling Park High School \$30,120	Extended day program – prep for ACT/SAT/ASVAB/Work Keys – Personalized learning and credit recovery opportunities.	81.4	86.2	92.3	1.9	0.4	0.5
Fayette County \$198,955	Afterschool enrichment program. Draws upon the community and school staff to enrich programs for middle students in Fayetteville High that currently had no middle school program. The Arts, Character Ed., Science and Career Tech will become part of the afterschool program to focus on creating a middle school culture and promote an effective transition.	65.8	70.2	81.3	3.1	2.9	1.5

Monroe County Schools \$227,500	Develop a district wide comprehensive dropout prevention plan that includes: a revised dropout policy with 4 steps, creation of an early warning systems used to track at-risk students and have interventions to provide support. Raised the dropout age to 18	75.5	82.3	89.1	3.3	0.2	0.4
Putnam County \$300,000	Provide targeted and intensive career education programs. Piloting career education in the middle schools to assist students with transition from middle to high.	81.5	85.	90.1	1.1%	1.0%	.05%
Union Elementary \$50,000	Addressing dropout prevention at an early age – expand access to literacy through portables devices, partnership with local libraries, home visits by teachers, service learning projects, peer tutoring and mentoring partnerships. Enhanced instructional strategies	n/a Elementary Program (see reading and math in 2010-11)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Review of Data Conclusion Year Two 2012-2013:

9 out of 12 (one n/a) increased the graduation rate
 9 out of 12 (one n/a) decreased the county dropout rate

“NEW” Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zones for 2013-14:

In October, 2013 a total of \$1,411,933.00 dollars was distributed to five (5) counties with successful applications for Innovation Zone grants for three years and \$46,500.00 to one (1) county with a successful application for a Dropout Prevention grant. Two (2) of the six (6) grants incorporated the Community Schools Model into their application, one (1) will focus on “expeditionary learning”, and three (3) will continue to support students transitioning from middle to high school with new technical programs and support for struggling students.

Dropout Prevention and Recovery Innovation Zone Awards for 2013-14:

Cabell County Schools and June Harless School for Rural Education “Incubator School”; \$300,000
 Phillip Barbour High School, Barbour County Schools, “New Tech High School”; \$300,000
 McDowell County Career and Technical Center; \$46,500
 Mary C. Snow, Stonewall Jackson, and Capital High School, Kanawha County, \$300,000
 Cabell County Schools and June Harless School for Rural Education “Reggio Emilia Pre-K Model”; \$300,000
 Bluefield High, Junior and Intermediate Schools, Mercer County; \$219,499