



# Innovative Education Program Policy

## Merit Preparatory Academy

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for creating an innovation plan or improvement plan with the goal of ameliorating the quality of education and educational outcomes at Merit Preparatory Academy.

### Definitions

1. **Approved innovation plan:** An innovation plan that a local approving body approves in accordance with this policy
2. **Innovation plan:** A plan to implement an innovative education program with the view to improve educational outcomes.
3. **Innovation school:** A public school with an innovation plan that a local approving body approves.
4. **Innovative education program:** A program of research-based innovations in a public school, including innovations in:
  - a. school staffing;
  - b. curriculum and assessment;
  - c. class scheduling;
  - d. use of financial or other resources;
  - e. faculty recruitment;
  - f. employment;
  - g. employee evaluations; or
  - h. compensation.
5. **Local approving body:** A local approving body for the purpose of this policy is the charter school's authorizer or the State Charter School Board (SCSB).

### Policy and Procedures

1. In the event that Merit Preparatory Academy (MPA) creates an innovation plan with the view to improve education outcomes, MPA shall, in accordance with [53G-7-221](#):
  - a. Submit an innovation plan to the State Charter School Board.
2. The innovation plan shall include:
  - a. A statement of MPA's mission and an explanation of how the innovation plan will enhance MPA's ability to achieve the school's mission;
  - b. A description of the innovative education program MPA will implement;
  - c. A list and description of the research or scientific basis supporting the innovative education program;
  - d. A list of MPA's programs, policies, or operations that the innovation plan impacts, including:
    - (i) the length of the school day;
    - (ii) student graduation policies;
    - (iii) the school's assessment plan;
    - (iv) the school's proposed budget; or

- (v) the school's staffing plan;
  - e. A description of the improvements in academic performance MPA expects the innovation plan to achieve;
  - f. The period of time, not less than one year or more than three years, in which MPA will demonstrate the results of the program;
  - g. A description of the method MPA will use to measure outcomes and demonstrate whether it achieves the improvements described in Subsection (2)(e);
  - h. An estimate of cost savings or increased efficiencies, if any, MPA expects implementing the innovation plan will achieve;
  - i. Evidence that the following agree to the innovation plan:
    - (i) A majority of Board Members;
    - (ii) The Administration; and
    - (iii) A majority of teachers employed at MPA;
  - j. A statement demonstrating the level of support for the innovation plan from other members of the public school community, including:
    - (i) school employees other than teachers;
    - (ii) students; and
    - (iii) parents
  - k. A request for a waiver of any state board rule required for the public school to implement the innovation plan, if any; and
  - l. Any additional information the SCSB requires.
3. On approval of the innovation plan by the local approving body, MPA shall:
- a. Annually report to the local approving body on the innovation plan's progress in achieving the improvements described in Subsection (2) (e-h).
  - b. A local approving body shall annually submit a report to the state board upon request.

An Innovation School may accept private grants, loans, gifts, endowments, devises, or bequests which are made to support an innovative education program at an innovation school as outlined in 53G-7-221.

**Board Approved: 4/18/23**