

WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §18-5B-4

§18-5B-4. Innovation zones; required plans; plan approval; state board rule.

(a) The rule promulgated by the state board pursuant to section three of this article also shall include at least the following:

(1) Each school, group of schools, subdivision or department of a group of schools or subdivision or department of a school designated as an innovation zone or seeking designation as an innovation zone in accordance with this article shall develop an innovation zone plan;

(2) The innovation zone plan shall contain:

(A) A description of the programs, policies or initiatives the school, group of schools, subdivision or department of a group of schools or subdivision or department of a school intends to implement as an innovative strategy to improve student learning if the plan is approved in accordance with section five of this article;

(B) A list of all county and state board rules, policies and interpretations, and all statutes, if any, identified as prohibiting or constraining the implementation of the plan, including an explanation of the specific exceptions to the rules, policies and interpretations and statutes required for plan implementation. A school, a group of schools, a subdivision or department of a group of schools or a subdivision or department of a school may not request an exception nor may an exception be granted from any of the following:

(i) An assessment program administered by the West Virginia Department of Education;

(ii) Any provision of law or policy required by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law No. 107-110 or other federal law; and

(iii) Section seven, article two and sections seven-a, seven-b, eight and eight-b, article four, chapter eighteen-a of this code, except as provided in section eight of this article; and

(C) Any other information the state board requires.

(3) The innovation zone plan may include:

(A) An emphasis in the early childhood through intermediate grade levels on ensuring that each student is prepared fully at each grade level, including additional intervention strategies at grade levels three and eight to reinforce the preparation of students who are not prepared fully for promotion, or an emphasis in the secondary grade levels on ensuring that each student is prepared fully for college or other post-secondary education, as applicable for the school; and

(B) An emphasis on innovative strategies that allows academically advanced students to pursue academic learning above grade level or not available through the normal curriculum at the school.

(b) Each school, group of schools, subdivision or department of a group of schools or subdivision or department of a school designated or seeking designation as an innovation zone shall submit its innovation zone plan to the school's employees, the county superintendent and county board having jurisdiction over the school, the state board, and the state superintendent in accordance with section five of this article.