

SCHOOL & CLASSROOM INNOVATION

Being aware of the need for continuing change and innovation in the School District of Colby, the Board of Education encourages action research, pilot projects, and progressive programs that indicate promise of practical long-range improvements for our District's students. Exploring innovative practices that are rooted in sound educational research and best practice can inspire, inform, and engender constructive change in pedagogy and curricula. The Board understands that energizing innovations can be revitalizing to educators and the programs they instruct, and seeks to encourage innovation where anticipated new outcomes will become valued additions to, or extensions of the District's curriculum.

Inherent in this understanding is the realization that significant educational innovations can only result if given time to be nurtured in an environment immune from premature evaluation by the public and the profession. Introduction of educational initiatives will proceed in accordance with the following pilot project guidelines:

Criteria for Project Proposals:

- Project participants must include a qualified and enthusiastic teacher and an appropriate, targeted group of identified students.
- The Project Proposal will specify a rationale for the project and identify general educational goals for attainment along with specific student performance objectives
- The Proposal will stipulate educational research that supports implementation
- Project timelines will specify when the initiative will begin and terminate. Each Pilot Project may not exceed three years
- The Project proposal will outline a complete budget estimate, including staff, equipment, supplies, transportation, staff training and evaluation costs
- The Method for Evaluating the Project will be outlined, including the timetable
- Any training and/or implementation costs will be identified in the Project Plan, and the plan will include the means for informing parents/guardians and students about the Proposed Project

The Process for Proposing Pilot initiatives includes:

- Discuss the Pilot Project concept with building administrators and Curriculum Council
- Outline the Project Plan for the designated Building Leadership groups and Administrative Team
- If the Project achieves approvals/recommendations from those groups above, the Proposed Pilot Project will be forward to the Board of Education for deliberation by the Curriculum and Policy Committee, which will formulate its recommendation
- If the Project receives a favorable recommendation, the Board of Education reviews the proposal and makes a decision regarding its implementation as a Pilot Project