HOT TOPIC: ARKANSAS SCHOOLS
OF INNOVATION

Denise Airola, Director
Arkansas Innovation Policy

• Act 601 of 2013 Districts of Innovation
  • Amended in 2015—limitation for GT programs
• Digital Learning Act of 2013
• Act 1240 of 2015 An Act to allow a district to be granted the same waivers that are granted to an open enrollment charter school
• Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013
Districts of Innovation of 2013

• Reduce achievement gap
• Increase student participation in curriculum options
• Explore new avenues for expanding college & career readiness
• Motivate students by innovative teaching & learning
• Transform a school’s culture & climate
• Changes need that will lead to better prepared students for success in life & career
Wanted: Innovation!

• Schools of Innovation Applications: Innovation versus Evasion of Standards
  • Eleven out of 100+ applications in 2014
  • Four out of ten applications approved in 2015
  • 2016 applications are in process
Digital Learning of 2013

• Provide for the expansion of digital learning opportunities to all Arkansas public school students; and

• Remove any impediments to the expansion of digital learning opportunities

• http://www.arkansased.gov/divisions/learning-services/digital-learning-k-12
Act 1240: School District Waiver of 2015

- School District may petition State Board of Education for all or some of the waivers granted to an open-enrollment public charter school that draws students from the school district.
- Waivers requested before the State Board of Education—increasing number of districts using this avenue.
Arkansas Quality Charter Schools Act of 2013

• Improve student learning
• Encourage use of different and innovative teaching methods
• Create new professional opportunities
• Provide parents and pupils with expanded choice
• Hold schools established accountable for meeting goals
• November 2015: 23 conversion charters, 42 open-enrollment charters
Types of Waivers Requested

• Standards for Time students are in ‘Seats’
  • Seat time—planned instructional time
  • School hours/dates/school year dates
  • Attendance

• Curriculum
  • Arkansas History incorporated into other Social Studies courses
  • Visual art/music integrated into other learning
  • PE incorporated into other courses
  • Time scheduled for instruction in core curriculum and integration of some curriculum into core.
  • Grading, reporting of student progress, etc.

• Standards for advancement/completion
  • Carnegie units

• Standards for staff—PD, non-instructional duties, etc.
Policy readiness: What’s your state?

- How supportive are your local policies for innovation?
  - **RED**-Prohibitive policy environment
  - **Yellow**-Limited or conditional environment
  - **Green**-Supportive and permissive environment
Mission of the Office of Innovation for Education

Cultivate and support sustainable innovation in education

Goal: to create a statewide learning community where members can learn, teach and realize shared goals through innovative strategies and shared programs.

How? Build relationships to help support innovation by connecting research, focusing change, and informing decisions.
Office of Innovation for Education: It’s time to take a chance on innovation.

Website:  
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We’ve Had a Deluge of Initiatives and Innovations!
Myths and Perceived Threats to Innovation

• We have to change everything to do this!
• We have initiative fatigue. We can’t handle one more ‘new’ thing!
• We just got finished going through a big change in standards—we can’t change again so soon.
• We have to wait until we the same test for a few years in a row.
• Our technology is limited
  • We don’t have enough computers or devices.
  • Our bandwidth isn’t enough to support it.
• Our students aren’t ready for it.
  • Our parents would never support this.
  • Our teachers would never support this.
  • Our school board would never...
DON’T GET OVERWHELMED

Deconstruct,
Connect to research and resources,
Collaborate!
Deconstruct to integrate—where might you start?

Remember, throw out the bathwater, not the baby!

Source of Diagram: 2Revolutions, an education design lab [http://www.2revolutions.net/about](http://www.2revolutions.net/about)
Some Components of Innovative Learning Models

• PERSONALIZED: to fit each learner
• LEARNER-DRIVEN: to let kids own their learning
• APPLIED: to let kids learn by doing
• COST-EFFECTIVE: to be feasible at scale
• TECH-ENABLED: to leverage technologies that work

Source of Diagram: 2Revolutions, an education design lab http://www.2revolutions.net/about
What have we learned in our work? What are the challenges?

• Mindsets and Perceptions
  • Threat rigidity—hunkering down
    • Change=fear/resistance
  • Traditional mindsets—focused on test scores, whole class instruction w some RTI, traditional teacher role
  • Technology as solution rather than tool
  • Personalized learning & Innovation: abstract concepts ‘what does personalized learning mean?’ ‘what do you mean by innovation?’
  • Confusing terminology—different terms describe the same thing across states and even within states!
Don’t let the Terminology be a barrier!

- Personalized learning
- Student-centered learning
- Competency-based instruction
- Mastery-based learning
- Online learning/virtual learning
- Blended learning
- Blended learning flex
- Flipped classroom
- One-to-one

- Technology
- LMS
- LCS
- Dashboard
- Digital content/digital textbooks
- Transformation versus change
- Seat time
- Student control
- Student-driven
Personalized learning

• Students have some control over time, path, place, and pace.
  • Technology may or may not be used to enable personalization
  • http://www.innovationshigh.org/
• Student-centered, student-driven, student-focused learning systems

Source: http://learning.instructure.com/2015/06/student-centered-learning-a-glossary/
It’s a continuum

Less Us, More Them
Creating student-centered contexts for learning

“I think it’s an exaggeration, but that there’s a lot of truth in saying that when you go to school, the trauma is that you must stop learning and you must now accept being taught.”

— Seymour Papert

Graphic courtesy of Kenneth Grover, Principal, Innovations Early College High School, SLC, Utah
Competency-based learning

- Competency education builds upon standards reforms, and is often described as providing flexibility in awarding credit or defined as an alternative to the Carnegie unit.
  - Transition from time-based system (Carnegie unit/seat time) to learning-based system.
  - Defined differently in detail, but similarly in general
- [http://www.competencyworks.org/about/competency-education/](http://www.competencyworks.org/about/competency-education/)
- [http://cssr.us/](http://cssr.us/)
- Voices from the Field [http://i3.cssr.us/](http://i3.cssr.us/)
What types of Innovations are you interested in pursuing?

• Student-focused, student-centered, student-driven learning—what do the terms mean, what does it look like when schools are doing it, why do it?
• Personalized learning plans for students
• Flexible schedules—student and teacher roles, responsibilities, how to transition to flexible schedules, etc.
• Regional partnerships or consortia for career-focused and other types of programs (Arch Ford Cooperative Example).
• Student-driven learning
• Competency-based learning and progression
• Expeditionary Learning
• Project-based learning
• Personal competencies/executive skills
Innovation Resources

• iNACOL  http://www.inacol.org/

• Personalized Learning-what it takes to get started: http://www.inacol.org/resource/personalized-learning-what-it-takes-to-get-started/

• Competency-based Learning http://www.inacol.org/resources/resource-search/?resource_topics=14

• Blended Learning http://www.inacol.org/resources/resource-search/?resource_topics=62
More Innovation Resources

• Center for Innovations in Learning [http://www.centeril.org/](http://www.centeril.org/)
• Through the Eyes of the Student and other personalized learning publications: [http://www.centeril.org/research/](http://www.centeril.org/research/)
• Center for Secondary School Redesign [http://cssr.us/](http://cssr.us/)
  • [http://i3.cssr.us/](http://i3.cssr.us/)
• Most Likely to Succeed
  • [http://mltsfilm.org/](http://mltsfilm.org/)
  • [https://vimeo.com/122502930](https://vimeo.com/122502930)
Key factors for successful implementation

**Envisioning**
- Workshops and leader development
- Bringing key stakeholders together with a facilitator
- Leave with actionable plan

**Partnering**

**Multi-Year Commitment**
- Partnership
  - Dedicated support
  - Provides step-by-step implementation support
  - Can provide site-level support

**Multi-Year Commitment**
- Long-term commitment: The secret to success
What are your next steps? What assistance do you need?

• More learning about innovation
  • Connect me to others who are innovating
  • Guide me to ideas and information
  • Help me figure out my innovation needs

• Planning/Designing
  • Help with the SOI application details
  • Help with facilitating the process
  • Help with questions about which waivers I need

• Networking/Implementation Support
  • Connect me with innovators for implementation support
  • Advocate for support, resources, policy
Get Connected and focus your efforts

• OIE researching, bringing, and sending
  • Surveys, focus groups, SOI liaisons
  • Innovation Summit & Regional Follow-ups
    • September 26-27, 2016—Save the dates!
  • iNACOL, October 25-28—San Antonio, TX
• Arkansas Innovators’ Gatherings Summer 2016
  • Innovation Institute, June 8 & 9—Springdale, AR
    https://sites.google.com/a/sdale.org/i2-google/home
  • The Flex Summit June 29 & 30—University of Arkansas
    http://www.pacesn.com/#!flex-summit/c6v5
Save the Date!
OIE’s Second Annual Innovation Summit:
Engage, Design, Transform
• September 26 & 27
• Little Rock Marriott

Keynote Speakers:

Michael Horn
Co-founder and Distinguished Fellow of the Clayton Christensen Institute for Disruptive Innovation, innovation author & speaker

Johnny Key
Commissioner of Education

Buddy Berry
Superintendent, Eminence Independent School District and founder of the Framework of Innovation for Reinventing Education (FIRE)
How Can we help?

• Contact us! oie@uark.edu 479-575-4499
  • Ideas, connections, guidance on Transformation process
    • Marsha Hash hash@uark.edu
    • Jennifer Williams oie@uark.edu
    • Denise Airola dairola@uark.edu
• Technology & Resources for Innovation—launching collaboration site soon!
  • Santhosh Anand ssanand@uark.edu
  • Kyle Cowan kcowan@uark.edu

http://innovativeed.org
Success from the Trenches: Panel Members

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Panel Questions

1. What needs were you responding to when your school/district sought to innovate?
2. What barriers did you face?
3. Describe your biggest success(es).
4. What are your top recommendations for other district who wish to do find/implement innovative programs/practices?

Each school/district will have 15 minutes to share answers to these questions.

Final Q & A if time allows.