

# Board Policy

Code No. 602.4

## PILOT – EXPERIMENTAL- INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

The district supports the development of innovative pilot programs which will further enhance student achievement and school improvement initiatives. Pilot programs may originate from building school improvement teams and/or from District school improvement groups.

Pilot programs which substantially alter the existing school day, educational program(s), or modify the use and delivery of instructional materials, must be approved by the Board of Education. The following procedures will apply to all pilot programs of a significant nature as they are proposed to the Board of Education for approval:

- Pilot programs should be first developed through the building School Improvement Team or District school improvement group. (i.e. District School Improvement Council, Schools Council, etc.)
- Proposals must be presented to the Board of Education at least three months prior to the anticipated start of the program, unless waived by the Board.

**Step 1:** The initial proposal must include the following basic elements: rationale, definition of problem, description of program modification requested, proposal, supporting research base, implication for school improvement and/or student achievement, timeline, and suggested course of action.

**Step 2:** Once initial approval is given by the Board, the School Improvement Team must develop and submit a proposed Comprehensive School Improvement Plan to the Superintendent for presentation to the Board of Education. This School Improvement Plan will incorporate, but is not limited to, the following:

- Executive Summary
- Rationale
- Description of the program
- Goals and objectives
- Timeline
- Curriculum and instruction implications
- Impact on school improvement and/or student achievement
- Support base among faculty, staff, students, and parents
- Supporting research and best practice
- Curriculum writing and support
- Transportation
- Food service
- Budget preparation and summary
- Program evaluation
- Community support agencies

Additional criteria may be added or deleted from this list pending the nature of the proposal.

- Major pilot programs requiring significant change should have a substantial level of parent and staff support. This support should be determined by participating parents and staff at the attendance center prior to the proposal being presented to the Board of Education for consideration.
- School sites will be responsible to file necessary waivers, if appropriate, to the Iowa Department of Education
- Pilot programs will be consistent with existing District policies, procedures, and master contractual agreements. Waivers from the Board and/or Department of Education may be secured as appropriate.

All pilot programs must be supported by the building School Improvement Plan and/or District School Improvement Plan. Pilot programs will be subject to an existing action research model and evaluation program review.

*Approved: July 10, 2000*

*Reapproved: June 18, 2001  
June 21, 2004  
July 9, 2007  
July 11, 2011*

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July 11, 2011*