



## Innovation Schools – Call for Quality Applicants 2021-22 Application Cycle

IPS is excited to announce our call for quality applicants to launch an Innovation Network School.

Pursuant to [IC 20-25.7](#), any individual, school team, or charter organization may be eligible to run an Innovation Network School. Indianapolis Public Schools is leading the way, both in the city and nation, in designing a system that supports schools' expanded autonomy as well as expanding quality choices for all families.

There are five ways to become an Innovation Network School. You may be interested in more than one pathway, and can indicate such in your letter of interest. However, your formal application must be focused on one specific type of school in order to be considered.

- 1. New School Launch** – A new school that opens may enter into an Innovation Network Agreement to be in partnership with IPS facilities and shared services.
- 2. Charter as New Partner** – Charter schools, either new or existing, within the IPS boundaries may enter into a partnership with IPS via an Innovation Network Agreement. This allows access to shared services such as food service, transportation, and professional development and provides the ability to create a proximity boundary for enrollment.
- 3. Restarts** – A partner applies to restart a chronically under-performing school that has been recommended for this intervention by district leadership. These applications should be tailored to school and community needs in the fall. At the time of this call, you should indicate your willingness to restart **any** school for which the need is identified.
- 4. Conversion** – In an Innovation Conversion, an existing IPS school that shows outstanding leadership and team capacity may apply to convert their school. Significant staff, parent, and community support is needed for this route and should be detailed in the application.
- 5. Jumpstart** -- An existing IPS school in need of intervention due to student outcomes may convert to an Innovation Network School based on the will of the school community and building leadership as a self-initiated improvement strategy.

### 2021-22 Application Cycle Timeline

Below is an overview of the timeline for the 2021-22 Innovation application cycle:

**May 28, 2021:** Call for applicants

**July 31, 2021:** Letters of interest due

**Before October 28, 2021:** First round of interview

**November 5, 2021:** Formal application due for restart, charter partner, new school applicants

**January 7, 2022:** Formal application due for conversion and jumpstart applicants

**November 2021-January 2022:** Follow-up interviews

**At or before March 2022 Board Meeting:** Contracts to IPS Board

To get started on your letter of interest, use the template below. Please email the completed document to [dickeyb@myips.org](mailto:dickeyb@myips.org) before the specified deadline.



**Innovation Network Schools – Letter of Interest Template  
2021-22 Application Cycle**

Dear Superintendent Aleesia Johnson and IPS Leadership Team,

The undersigned individual/organization is considering submitting an application to establish an Innovation Network School with IPS pursuant to [IC 20-25.7](#). We understand that a full application and supporting documents will be due in the coming months. We also understand that this Letter of Interest is non-binding and we may withdraw our interest at any time. However, our indication of interest will be shared publicly on the IPS website this fall.

**Legal name of organization applying:**

**Name of proposed school:**

**Applicant’s authorized representative:**

**Full mailing address:**

**Daytime phone number:**

**E-mail address:**

**What kind of Innovation School are you considering applying to open? Why do you feel that you are best suited to open this kind of school?** (You may indicate more than one type, but provide strong and unique rationale for each. Choices are – New Innovation School, Innovation Charter School, Innovation Restart, Innovation Conversion, Innovation Jumpstart).

**What grade levels will your school serve?** (Please indicate if you will launch all grades at once, or over time. Restart, Conversion and Jumpstart schools must serve all grades currently in the school.)

**Specify your preferred geographic location.** (May be general rather than specific. Applies to all Innovation types *except* Conversion.)

**Please provide a brief description of your school’s mission. In a few sentences, provide a clear statement that defines the purpose and nature of your school.**

**Are you planning to apply for a charter? If so, with which authorizer? Please share your timeline for application and approval.**

**Signature of Applicant’s Authorized Representative**

---

**Name**

**Date**