

Innovation School Zone Plan Submission and Approval Process⁽¹⁾

STEP 1 - SCHOOL DISTRICT SUBMISSION

A group of public schools of a school district or in multiple districts that share common interests, such as geographical location or educational focus, or that sequentially serve classes of students as they progress through elementary and secondary education jointly submits to their local school board or boards an Innovation School Zone Plan (ISZP) addressing each relevant component of RSA 194-E:2 (III) and (IV).

STEP 2 - LOCAL APPROVAL

Upon receipt of an ISZP, the local School Board(s) shall hold a public hearing on the ISZP. Within 60 days of receipt of the ISZP, the local School Board(s) shall either:

- (1) Approve the ISZP and seek designation from the State Board of Education (SBOE) under Ed 1501.04; or
- (2) Reject the ISZP and provide to the school(s) a written explanation for the basis of the decision as described under RSA 194-E:2(I)(d).

STEP 3 - STATE REVIEW

Upon approval of an ISZP, the local School Board(s) shall submit the ISZP to the NHED Bureau of Educational Opportunities (BEO) for review and comment. Within 45 days after receipt of the ISZP, the BEO shall issue written feedback to the local School Board(s) using the criteria identified in RSA 194-E:3(III), at which point the local School Board(s) may elect to withdraw and resubmit the ISZP. After review by NHED, the local School Board(s) shall submit the ISZP to the SBOE for review.

STEP 4 - STATE APPROVAL

The SBOE board shall hold a public hearing on the ISZP, during which a representative from the BEO and a representatives from the local School Board(s) shall be present. Within 60 days of receipt of the ISZP, the SBOE shall either approve or reject the ISZP based on the elements set forth in RSA 194-E, III-IV, and shall provide written explanation of the decision to the local School Board(s). If the SBOE rejects the ISZP, the local School Board(s) may resubmit an amended ISZP to NHED at any time after rejection.

(1) - In accordance with RSA 194-E:2 Local Planning and Approval and RSA 194-E:3 State Approval.