

Rationale for the Innovation Zone

The Innovation Zone seeks to demonstrate the efficacy of a collective response to the needs of individual schools within the zone. The zone provides an opportunity to collaborate within a network of schools whose conditions are similar and whose leadership teams are philosophically aligned. The selected innovations, in conjunction with our cycle of continuous improvement, has been critical to each of our zone school's turnaround strategies. The Innovation Zone in Pueblo includes three middle schools: Pueblo Academy of Arts, Risley International Academy of Innovation, and Roncalli STEM Academy. There are also four elementary schools that comprise the zone: Bessemer Academy, Franklin School of Innovation, Irving Elementary, and Minnequa Elementary.

While the schools within the zone have their own practices and approaches to educational programming and learning, they share a common foundation that is rooted in best practices, creative approaches to problems, and a dedication to collaborative experiences that allow educators to share experiences and benefit from one another. The schools within the zone continue to develop and refine these practices, recognizing that the work is ongoing, and there is always an opportunity for continuous improvement.

As part of the larger school district, the zone has been dedicated to implementing and piloting practices that can have a positive impact on the district as a whole. Many district adopted concepts and practices such as observation and feedback cycles, data meetings, and leadership professional development have been informed and developed in part, via the original work done by the schools within the innovation zone.