

# Innovative School Models Blueprint

Innovative School Models (ISMs) in Tennessee **align learning opportunities for students in middle and high school with experiences to be prepared to meet workforce and labor needs** by reimagining time, space, modes of learning, and community partnerships. **Students can also graduate high school with a high school diploma PLUS college credits, degrees, certificates, or credentials aligned to potential future careers.**

ISMs successfully maintain exceptional student outcomes by:

- providing high-quality, career-oriented instruction that increases student access to post-secondary credit-bearing courses, work-based learning, industry credentials, and certification programs; and
- providing meaningful, individualized career navigation and advising through mentorships, job shadowing, advising structures, and resources that support students in exploring careers aligned with their interests and aptitudes and selecting educational paths aligned to their chosen career trajectories.

The Innovative School Models Blueprint provides best practices aligned to developing these types of middle and high school experiences. School and district leaders can use the blueprint to identify program strengths and opportunities for program enhancement.

*\*Note: This blueprint is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Please work with your board attorney and IT department to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and district policies. Obtain parent/guardian consent when needed.*

## Reimagine Partnerships

1. Reimagine how stakeholders are included in decision-making and governance structures.
  - Define roles, responsibilities, and shared goals by establishing a communication plan for various stakeholder groups.
  - Incorporate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and/or data-sharing agreement with industry and post-secondary partners as needed.
  - Collaborate and communicate frequently with stakeholders (students, families, industry, and post-secondary institutions) by including stakeholders in school and district leadership team structures and/or developing consistent and regular shared governance and/or decision-making meetings (advisory teams, steering committees, parent conferences, etc.).

2. Reimagine how partners enhance career exploration, career navigation, and advising.
  - Define where and when students will engage with partners.
  - Leverage partners to provide guaranteed experiences for your full student body population and your teachers (e.g., career fairs, job shadowing, mentorships, in-class presentations, internships, apprenticeships, and externships).
  - Define resources and support available to students through partner organizations by establishing MOUs.
  - Develop systems for collaboration that support students in completing High School and Beyond plans (as outlined in SBE policy 2.102) with a seamless transition to postsecondary or the workforce.
  
3. Reimagine partners' roles in providing effective and industry-aligned career-oriented instruction.
  - Use information and ideas from partners as you redefine time, space, and modes of learning.
  - Utilize partners for learning delivery through MOUs for off-campus learning (e.g., postsecondary courses, work-based learning, apprenticeship, etc.) at off-campus locations or through on-campus learning delivery roles (i.e., teacher of record, co-teacher, class mentor, etc.).
  - Utilize partners to support curriculum selection in alignment with state laws and district policy.

## Reimagine Time

1. Reimagine the class schedule to maximize students' ability to engage in individualized programming and supports (e.g., career and technical education (CTE) courses, core academic courses, work-based learning, intervention, tutoring, advising, etc.).
  - Coordinate class schedules with postsecondary and industry partners to increase student access to workforce and labor needs.
  - Create systems that allow for flexibility within the class schedules to meet individual student needs and that allow students to adjust chosen pathways when needed.
  
2. Reimagine before and after school time to create increased opportunities and access for students.
  - Utilize equipment and staff outside of the traditional school day to accelerate learning for students.
  - Expand summer programming and learning opportunities.

## Reimagine Space

1. Reimagine where students engage in learning.
  - Offer high school course requirements off campus at an employer's site, a postsecondary institution, or an innovation hub.
  - Offer postsecondary courses on campus, at an employer's site, or at an innovation hub.
  - Offer work-based learning opportunities on or off campus by partnering with local employers or developing on-campus work-based learning experiences for students.
  - Explore virtual options for students to maximize daily schedules.
  - Optimize travel through creative solutions to meet individual student needs.
2. Reimagine the classroom environments in which students learn.
  - Align classroom equipment and resources with industry standards.
  - Utilize virtual reality, software, and AI equipment to provide students with opportunities for career-aligned application of learning.
3. Reimagine the full learning environment to support student engagement, awareness, and attainment.
  - Create space (in person and virtually) to access advisors, mentors, and teachers who can provide intervention, tutoring, counseling, and other services and support to students.
  - Utilize students' High School and Beyond plans, aptitude and interest inventories, and the early warning system to ensure students have access to the support they need to meet their individual educational and career goals, regardless of where their learning might be occurring.

## Reimagine Modes of Learning

1. Reimagine course offerings by increasing all students' access to dual credit, dual enrollment, postsecondary degree attainment, TCAT certifications, industry credentials, and work-based learning options.
  - Utilize multiple modalities for learning within these offerings (i.e., in-person, online, and hybrid) to maximize student options.
2. Reimagine course offerings by increasing the pathway and career options available to students.

- Increase early postsecondary opportunities (EPSO) and work-based learning in a variety of content areas.
  - Develop new pathways and course offerings to align with labor and workforce needs.
  - Develop new partnerships for work-based learning.
3. Reimagine course content.
- Integrate career awareness and relevance into core courses.
  - Develop non-academic standards and competencies for employment success in collaboration with partners and integrate those standards into the course design.
  - Align curriculum and instruction to industry standards.
  - Integrate virtual reality tools into the instructional experience.
  - Utilize project-based learning to support application of standards with a career-oriented lens.
  - Provide teachers with professional development and externships to support their ability to deliver industry and career aligned instruction within core content areas and within industry specific courses.