



NC INNOVATIVE
SCHOOL DISTRICT



NORTH CAROLINA INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Partnering with local communities to create innovative conditions which accelerate student achievement

Dr. Eric Hall, NCISD Superintendent



MISSION STATEMENT (Draft)

Creating innovative conditions within low-performing schools in partnership with communities across North Carolina focused on improving equity and opportunity through high expectations for student achievement.

OUR STRATEGY

We will work to improve student achievement in low-performing schools by engaging school districts and communities in a collaborative partnership based on the creation of two innovative models.

Innovative School

A low-performing school operated by a qualified charter or educational management organization as authorized by the State Board of Education

Innovation Zone (I-Zone)

A group of low-performing schools in a local district (where an Innovative School is established) that can be granted additional flexibility to engage non-traditional practices designed to promote student achievement.

NCISD PROCESS TOWARDS IMPROVED ACHIEVEMENT



**CONSIDERATION
PHASE**



**EVALUATION
PHASE**



**SELECTION
PHASE**



**ENGAGEMENT
PHASE**



**PARTNERSHIP
PHASE**



**TRANSITION
PHASE**

CONSIDERATION PHASE



Consideration for the ISD is initiated by the ISD superintendent, upon an annual review of school performance data.

- + School performance score in the lowest 5% of all schools in the prior year
 - Includes all or part of grades K-5
 - Did not exceed growth in at least one of the prior three school years and did not meet growth in at least one of the prior three school years
 - Did not adopt one of the established reform models for the immediate prior year
- + Must include both rural and urban schools
- + Cannot engage more than one school from a single LEA

EVALUATION PHASE



In this phase, the ISD superintendent engages with the local district superintendent of a qualifying school followed by meetings with:

- + Parents/families and local communities
- + Local school principal and team
- + Local school board
- + Local county commissioners

In addition, the ISD superintendent and ISD team completes an evaluation of qualifying schools under consideration to support the final selection process.

SELECTION PHASE



+ The ISD superintendent makes a final selection of recommended ISD schools by October 15 for the State Board of Education's final approval by December 15.

+ Qualified Charter Management Organizations (CMO)/Education Management Organizations (EMO) are evaluated for consideration in operating a selected ISD school. Final candidate CMO/EMO partners present to the local school board and community their goals for partnering and operating the ISD school for the next 5 years. SBE approval of a qualified CMO/EMO must be made between January 15 and February 15.

+ Local school boards of identified ISD schools have until February 1st to either adopt a resolution transferring the school to the ISD or a resolution to close the school.

ENGAGEMENT PHASE



During this phase, the local school district and the ISD team work to establish final protocols and plans for:

- + Transfer of the school to the ISD
- + Development of contracts and agreements
- + Design and implementation planning for the launch of a local Innovation Zone (if requested by the local school board, recommended by the ISD superintendent and approved by the SBE)

PARTNERSHIP PHASE



- + All contracts and agreements are signed and enacted between all parties. School personnel, leaders and I-Zone staff are identified and hired to operate the schools.
- + The ISD, the selected and approved CMO/EMO, and the local district are collaborating towards the full operation of the Innovative School and Innovation Zone (as applicable). This would include the identification and partnership with other local organizations, community leaders and parents/families to ensure strong engagement in the effective operation of the schools.
- + Innovative Schools (as operated by CMO/EMO) and Innovation Zones are engaged as partners for a minimum of 5 years, with an option to operate an additional 3 years if student and school outcomes are improving.

TRANSITION PHASE



During the final year of operation under the ISD, the team engages in a process for effectively returning the school to the control and management of the local district.

This transition planning process will include:

- + Analysis of data and outcomes for students at the school
- + Assessment of teacher and school leader performance over the previous four-year period
- + Parent engagement and education activities on the transition through forums and open-house style events
- + Personnel transition plans (back to the district or other options)

TRANSITION PHASE OUTCOME

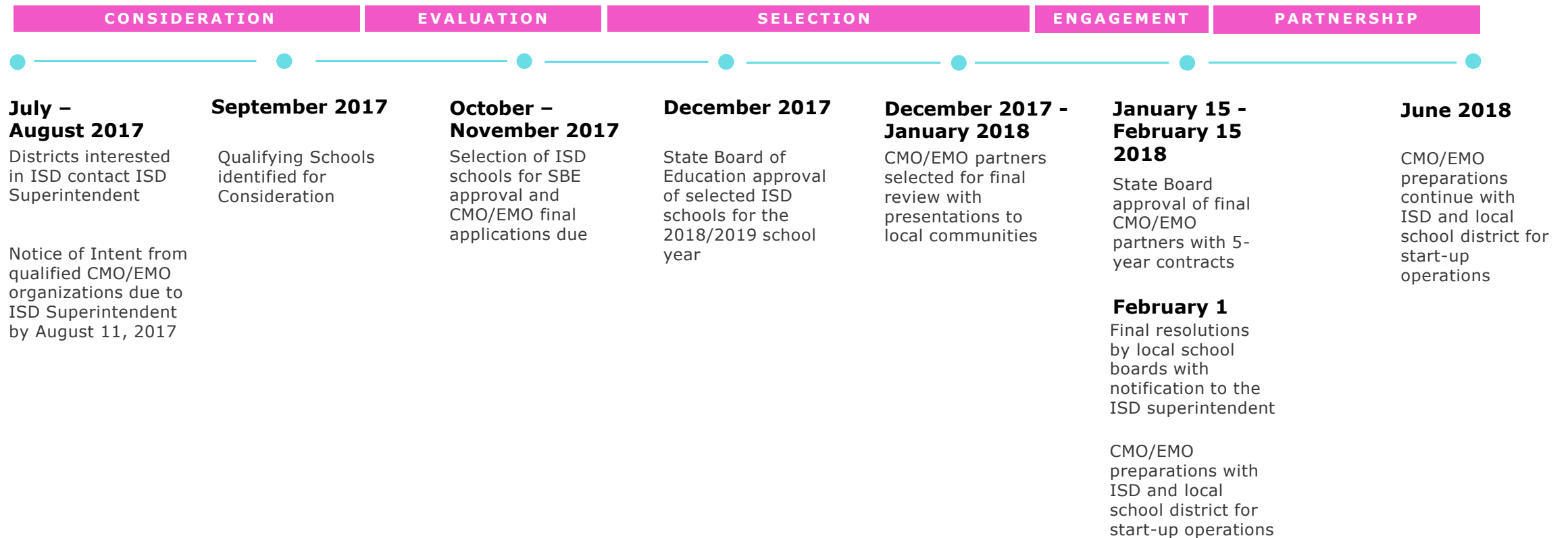
+ Transition the ISD school back to the local district

+ Innovative school operator may apply to convert the school to a charter school if the local school board elects not to receive the school back into the local district

Or

+ The school may be closed if the local school board elects not to receive the school back into the local district

POTENTIAL TIMELINE FOR FIRST COHORT OF ISD SCHOOLS



ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS

- + Strong focus and engagement in the development of the Innovation Zone model
- + Commitment to research and evaluation (5-year evaluation of the ISD)
- + Dedicated processes and practices focused on the use of research and emerging evidence on effective school improvement
- + Creating a statewide and local network of partners engaged in the work of the ISD, the Innovation Zones and our state's ongoing efforts for continuous improvement in education



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

For additional Information on the
North Carolina Innovative School District, please visit:

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/ncisd/>

Or contact:

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