



Innovation FAQ Sheet

1. What is innovation?

The Innovation Schools Act provides a pathway for schools and districts to obtain greater individual school autonomy and managerial flexibility in order to implement diverse approaches to learning.

Essentially, schools opt out of State and District Policy and aspects of the DCTA agreement in order to create their own plans that aim to meet the specific needs of their students.

2. Do teachers have rights at an innovation school?

Yes, teachers in innovation schools have rights. These schools are required to comply with all TECEA regulations. Additionally, innovation schools typically collaborate with teachers to determine replacement policies that best meet the needs of the school community.

3. How do innovation schools provide more autonomy?

Innovation schools provide greater autonomy by allowing schools to opt out of certain district policies, such as curriculum, professional development, and the school calendar. This flexibility enables schools to design lessons and professional development plans tailored to their specific community needs. Decisions are made collaboratively, with input from all stakeholders, including teachers, parents, and school leaders.

4. Can teachers join DCTA at an innovation school?

Yes, you can join DCTA if you work at an innovation school. Many innovation school staff members are part of bargaining units, including DCTA, DAEOP, and others.

5. How does a school become innovation?

The process towards gaining innovation status starts when a school community formulates a narrative, grounded in the school mission, that describes the innovative practices the school would implement. Innovation plans are organized around school culture, educational programming, teaching, school management & leadership, and governance. Ultimately, all plans are reviewed and approved by a **vote** of the school staff and community, the **DPS** Board, and the State Board of Education.