

# Innovation Learning

## Igniting the unique potential of every student in Colorado

The Innovation Learning Office works in partnership with the Colorado Education Initiative to ignite the unique potential of every student. The initiative seeks to creatively and systemically integrate a vast range of new and existing teaching and learning tools, resources, modules and approaches into more personalized, engaging and relevant learning experiences that tap into each student's passions, interests and learning styles inside and outside of the classroom. The office seeks to enhance educator effectiveness and the use of existing resources to improve student outcomes and create competent, confident learners who are more empowered, better supported and fully prepared for education, careers and life.

### Rationale

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- For our nation to lead in a global society, it is imperative that we maximize the potential of every student to contribute as engaged and productive citizens and members of the workforce.
- We cannot tolerate the loss of any individual's unique potential to contribute to our state's and nation's global and economic success.
- The current education system was designed to sort and select students for an industrial age. It was not designed to help every student gain the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in a dynamic and global society.

### Intended Student Outcomes

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- The education system we need will help students:
  - Develop the academic, professional, and entrepreneurial competencies that the modern economy demands
  - Instill the drive to contribute to society in ways that improve our state, nation, and world
  - Understand and challenge themselves and take responsibility for maximizing their talent and potential

We need learning environments designed to maximize these outcomes for students, educators prepared to create these learning environments, and systems that promote and support educators in this effort.

### Learning Environment Characteristics

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**Personal and Personalized:** The delivery of education is not tied to a single method or structure but takes advantage of a variety of media, partners, schedules, and approaches to best meet the needs of each student.

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**Competency-Based:** Progress through the education system is based on assessed mastery of learning, demonstrated through competencies, rather than measures of seat time. Competencies describe knowledge and skills that can be applied to novel, complex situations, and include explicit, measurable, transferrable learning objectives that empower students.

**Co-Created:** Students play an active role in shaping their learning experience, and see themselves as owners of their own educational outcomes. Teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members all play important roles in education.

**Safe and Healthy:** Learning environments are safe, welcoming, and free of obstacles to learning. Basic health is not a barrier to learning, physical activity is a valued part of every learning environment, and students are supported in building the skills to handle whatever they may be going through in life.

**Time-, Talent-, and Tech-Enabled:** Time, talent, and technology are not drivers of – or impediments to – teaching and learning. Instead, their use is designed and redesigned to maximize support for the instructional priorities of the school. Technology enables learners and educators to be flexible with time, place, and pace of learning. Schedules, staffing plans, and technology use plans are designed to align with instructional priorities.

## Our strategic priorities

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- Promoting vision and building case for change
- Connecting people and ideas
- Identifying, promoting, supporting, and legitimizing early adopters
- Establishing supportive CDE policies and practices
- Creating environments for innovation at all levels

## Where can I learn more?

- CDE's Office of Innovation Learning website: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/expandedlearningopportunitiesoffice>
- The Colorado Education Initiative's website: <http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/our-work/next-generation-learning/>

**The Colorado Department of Education**  
201 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, CO 80203 • Phone • email