



# Success-Ready Students Network

## Goal

The Success-Ready Students Network (SRSN) is a collaborative initiative that connects the Missouri public school community. The SRSN's goal is to build the capacity of these stakeholders to understand and **use a competency-based mind-set to personalize learning in ways that ensure every student has the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career and workplace ready**. The SRSN equips classroom, school and district systems to put students at the center in using a competency-based mindset to design and build personalized learning experiences.

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# Missouri Competency-Based Learning Framework



The Missouri framework for competency-based learning (CBL) includes the seven elements that define a competency-based education system<sup>1</sup>, plus an additional Real World Learning element, for a total of eight elements.

1. Students are empowered daily to make important decisions about their learning experiences, how they will create and apply knowledge, and how they will demonstrate their learning.
2. Assessment is a meaningful, positive, and empowering learning experience for students that yields timely, relevant, and actionable evidence.
3. Students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.
4. Students progress based on evidence of mastery, not seat time.
5. Students learn actively using different pathways and varied pacing.
6. Strategies to ensure equity for all students are embedded in the culture, structure, and pedagogy of schools and education systems.

7. Rigorous, common expectations for learning (knowledge, skills, and dispositions) are explicit, transparent, measurable, and transferable.
8. Students engage in Real World Learning experiences that support high school, college, career and workplace readiness.

A competency-based school should implement all seven elements of the definition (plus Real World Learning). Strong implementation also requires policies, pedagogy, structures, and culture that support every student.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Introduction to Competency-Based Education," Aurora Institute, 2022

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## Scope of Work

The SRSN collaborates with the Missouri Department of Education to engage stakeholders in the following action-based learning activities:

- Supporting redesigning and building reimagined assessment and accreditation systems;
- Convening Innovation Zones (see below for more information);
- Engaging the business community to support business to education partnerships (B2E) including creation of a B2E Blue Ribbon Commission of business leaders to energize CBL and real world learning opportunities for all Missouri public school students; and
- Establishing a Steering Committee to develop and recommend policy changes based on study and research from the Innovation Zones and B2E Blue Ribbon Commission.

These learning activities were recommended by the [Success-Ready Students Work Group](#) to the Missouri Commissioner of Education and State Board of Education on June 14, 2022. All work in the SRSN is supported by engagement of stakeholders and use of effective communication strategies.

## Innovation Zones

SRSN is organizing Innovation Zones to support the work. The Innovation Zones provide a space where public school educators, partners and stakeholders engage

in high quality professional learning. That learning is used locally to support school improvement efforts, and statewide to inform system design. Participants in the 2022-2023 Innovation Zones will be guided by the study of three essential questions:

1. **What do students at all levels need to be empowered in their learning** so they can develop understanding of the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career and workforce ready?
2. **What professional learning is foundational** to designing and implementing a personalized, competency-based assessment for learning system (inclusive of federally mandated state assessments) that ensures *students* develop the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career, and workplace ready?
3. **How can assessment for learning approaches be used to inform system improvement and creation of reimagined assessment and accreditation systems** that support every student in being high school, college, career and workplace ready?

By design, the 2 levels of Innovation Zones listed below are intended to meet participants where they are in their journey, supporting them with high quality professional learning and a network of partners. It is important districts apply for the level they feel best aligns with their current reality.

## 1: System Design Zone (SDZ)

Leading CBL districts (representative of the state) who collaborate to improve local practice through professional learning and collectively support designing up a reimagined assessment for learning system (2022-2023) and an accreditation system (2023-2024). SDZ participants will also engage in study and research to deepen understanding of CBL practices and collaborate on state and federal waiver requests. **Applications are due September 9, 2022., with**

**superintendent notification of selection occurring by September 15, 2022.**

This zone will need to have a board resolution supporting this work, but this will be submitted after receiving notification of being selected. If a district is not chosen to be a SDZ participant, they will automatically be considered for the next tier without additional application.

## Evidence of Practice

Districts wishing to participate in SDZ should have evidence the following practices are in place or are under construction in their system:

- Use of competency-based learning (CBL) practices.
- Use of data to inform system change and improvement.
- Use of assessment for learning practices (especially formative, summative, interim assessments that demonstrate student growth).
- Professional learning that supports implementation of CBL, including current or desired future use of real world learning opportunities for students done in collaboration with identified partners (e.g. businesses, industry, entrepreneurial opportunities, etc).

## Commitments

Districts in the System Design Zone commit to the following:

- Sharing examples of how a competency-based mind-set is used to create personalized learning experiences, digital (e.g. text, video, etc) examples of which can be used for professional learning by other districts;
- Creating real world learning opportunities for students in collaboration with identified partners (e.g. businesses, industry, entrepreneurial opportunities, higher ed. etc.);
- Participating fully in regularly scheduled meetings (e.g. virtual, hybrid);
- Engaging in study and research (within approved and secure protocols) which inform instructional practice and system design that help identify important qualities of an assessment for learning and reimagined accreditation system;
- Supporting development of and considering participation in group designed waiver request(s) to DESE (e.g MSIP 6, federal) that identify solutions to barriers currently impeding the goal of every student mastering the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career and workplace ready;
- Using learning from the SDZ to support DESE in design work leading to creation of reimagined assessment and accreditation systems; and,
- Serving as a site visit location for other Missouri educators and stakeholders.

Participating districts will be asked to secure from their Board of Education a resolution supporting participation in the System Design Zone. A sample resolution is provided as part of the application.

Districts who believe they meet System Design Zone (SDZ) qualifications and can make the required commitments are encouraged to apply. Districts who apply for the (SDZ) but are not selected are automatically accepted into the Innovative Learning Design Zone (ILDZ).

## 2: Innovative Learning Design Zone (ILDZ)

Emerging CBL districts, schools and/or teachers who have demonstrated application of competency-based learning (CBL) principles join in professional learning with the SDZ. **Applications are due September 16, 2022, with superintendent notification of selection occurring by September 23, 2022.** Superintendent approval is required for participation in this zone.

### Commitments

Districts, schools or teachers selected to participate in the Innovative Learning Design Zone (ILDZ) commit to the following:

- Demonstrate a desire to grow in the use of competency-based learning (CBL) practices.
- Engage in monthly statewide professional learning.
- Support professional learning design and development of CBL related training materials as appropriate for use locally and/or statewide.
- Support improvements in curriculum and assessment design.
- Engage local stakeholder groups in using a CBL mind-set to support high school, college, career and workplace readiness.
- Prepare for engagement in a future System Design Zone cohort.

Submission of an application serves as agreement to commit. In addition, a signed letter of support from the Superintendent is required.

The ILDZ is a space where emerging CBL districts, schools and/or teachers who have demonstrated application of competency-based learning (CBL)

principles join in state-wide professional learning with the system design zone. It is anticipated that participating ILDZ districts will grow to the point where they are ready to participate in future SDZ cohorts.

### 3: Collaborative Network Zone (CNZ)

The Collaborative Network Zone is made up of statewide and regional education organizations, institutions of higher/post-secondary education and business partners who are currently engaged with supporting their local school district(s) in competency-based learning and Real World Learning practices or would like to learn more about these types of opportunities. More information on the CNZ, including the application process, will be provided in September, 2022.

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## Innovation Zones Calendar 2022-2023

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| Aug. 19, 2022     | Innovation Zones applications sent to all Missouri school districts and potential collaborative network partners.   |
| Aug. 22-Sept. 1   | Facilitators will host Zoom informational meetings regarding the Innovation Zone application process, including commitments with an opportunity to ask questions. Dates of meetings are as follows:<br><br>August 25, 2022 10:00-10:30 am<br>August 31, 2022 1:00-1:30 pm<br>September 1, 2022 9:00-9:30 am |
| Sept. 9, 2022     | System Design Zone applications due   |
| Sept. 12-14, 2022 | System Design Zone applications reviewed  |
| Sept. 15, 2022    | System Design Zone applicants notified  |

- Sept. 16, 2022 Innovative Learning Design Zone applications due
- Sept. 23, 2022 Notifications sent to Innovative Learning Design Zone
- Oct. 3, 2022 System Design Zone Planning Meeting: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm @ MASA in Jefferson City, MO
- Oct. 2022 + Monthly virtual professional learning sessions are held for all participants beginning October 2022-June 2023 in the Innovation Zones. The learning sessions are scheduled on the second Wednesday of each month from 10 am-12 pm (dates listed below). Each participating district from the System Design Zone and Innovative Learning Design Zone identifies up to 3 professional learning lead facilitators (e.g. educators, stakeholders) to engage in all monthly learning sessions. The expectation is for the district level lead facilitators to support professional learning with educators and stakeholders in their district. Each monthly session will support unpacking the essential questions with a special focus during the 2022-2023 school year on assessment for learning strategies, inclusive of Real World Learning. Collaborative Network participants will have one designated representative with one designated alternate.

All presentations (video and slides) will be posted on the Success-Ready Student Network website following the meeting. Participants are encouraged to use these materials to support local professional learning.

Dates for the monthly sessions are: Oct. 12, 2022, Nov. 9, 2022, Dec. 14, 2022, Jan. 11, 2023, Feb. 8, 2023, March 8, 2023, April 12, 2023, May 10, 2023, and June, 14, 2023.

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# Leadership

The Innovation Zones are supported by an experienced team of facilitators who collaboratively work with participants to coordinate and support:

- Agenda development and implementation of regularly scheduled statewide professional learning on CBL practices and system design considerations for all participants;
- Agenda development and implementation for the SDZ's regularly scheduled state-wide and regional meetings;
- Production of meetings and communication of work progress (e.g. website, newsletters, e-mail);
- Research that involves data collection, analysis and reporting to inform the design/build of reimagined assessment for learning and accreditation systems; and,
- Application and selection process for cohort participants.

Facilitators also oversee the work of contracted consultants and help connect districts with resources within the SRSN as needed.

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# Application

The application process is designed to help public K-12, K-8 and charter school districts reflect on where they are in their journey of creating personalized, competency-based learning experiences that support every student in developing the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career and workplace ready. Please note that perfection is not the goal; rather, a realistic self assessment of where your school district's system is at this point in time in relation to reasonable system-wide implementation of the components.

Applications for the SDZ and the ILDZ will be reviewed by the facilitation team. A member of the facilitation team may contact an applicant if additional information or clarification is needed.

By design, the Innovation Zones experiences are intended to meet participants where they are in their journey and support them with high quality professional

learning and a network of partners. Click the application link below that best suits your District to start the application.

## Apply Now

- [System Design Zone Application](#) due Sept 9th
- [Innovative Learning Design Zone Application](#) Due Sept 16