



INNOVATIVE ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM APPLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT

To: School districts that wish to apply to participate in Georgia's Innovative Assessment Pilot Program

From: State Board of Education

Date: July 19, 2018

Re: Innovative Assessment Pilot Program Application - **DEADLINE August 1 or September 1, 2018**

The State of Georgia established an Innovative Assessment Pilot Program that allows up to 10 school districts or groups of districts to develop alternate assessment and accountability systems aligned with state academic content standards beginning in 2018 (see SB 362 summary below).

The State Board of Education (SBOE) will conduct several competitions for school districts that wish to apply to be included as one of the 10 pilot program participants. The first competition is for districts wishing to participate in the pilot program during the 2018-19 school year. The two application deadlines for the first competition are as follows:

- If you wish to be considered by the SBOE at their August 22-23 meetings, then you must submit your application by August 1.
- If you wish to be considered by the SBOE at their September 26-27 meetings, then you must submit your application by September 1.

The second competition is for districts wishing to participate in the pilot program during the 2019-20 school year. It will be held in the first half of 2019.

To apply by either the August 1 or September 1, 2018 deadline, please complete and submit the attached Innovative Assessment Pilot Application to Debbie Caputo at dcaputo@doe.k12.ga.us.

If you have any questions about the application or the application process, please send them via email to Debbie at dcaputo@doe.k12.ga.us. She will get back to you with answers as soon as possible.

NOTE: If your district is approved by the SBOE in August or September to participate in the pilot program during 2018-19, you will need an amendment to your SWSS or Charter System contract to modify the accountability section of your contract. Templates for these follow-up documents will be sent to you upon SBOE approval of your application:

1. Petition to Amend SWSS or Charter System Contract
2. Contract Amendment
3. Replacement Accountability contract section (Exhibit C for SWSS or Appendix A for Charter System)
4. SBOE-approved Innovative Assessment Pilot Application

Thank you.

SB 362 - Innovative Assessment Pilot Program – Summary

Senate Bill 362 was passed during the 2018 legislative session, signed by Governor Deal, and went into effect on July 1, 2018. It added a new section in the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A. § 20-2-286, which states:

(a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the State Board of Education shall establish an innovative assessment pilot program to examine one or more alternate assessment and accountability systems aligned with state academic content standards. The pilot program shall span from three to five years in duration, as determined by the state board and may include up to ten local school system participants. A consortium of local school systems implementing the same innovative alternate assessment may participate in the pilot program and shall be counted as one of the ten pilot program participants. The participating local school systems shall be selected by the state board in a competitive process and based on criteria established by the state board, including current compliance with the terms of their charter system contract or strategic waivers school system contract.

(b) The local school systems participating in the pilot program shall be authorized to design and implement an innovative alternate assessment and accountability program which may include, but shall not be limited to, cumulative year-end assessments, competency based assessments, instructionally embedded assessments, interim assessments, performance based assessments, or other innovated assessment designs approved by the State Board of Education. In order to allow the time and resources for the participating local school systems to implement an innovative alternate assessment and accountability program, the state board shall be authorized to reduce the state-wide testing requirements for such local school systems for the duration of the pilot program for end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments as contained in Code Section 20-2-281.

(c) Notwithstanding Code Sections 20-2-82, 20-2-244, and 20-2-2065, the State Board of Education shall be authorized to waive, for the duration of the pilot program, all or a portion of the requirements of Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title for local school systems participating in the pilot program, but may replace any such accountability requirements with alternate requirements as specified in the local school system's charter system contract or strategic waivers school system contract.

(d) Each local school system participating in the pilot program shall amend its charter system contract or strategic waivers school system contract to reflect the innovative alternate assessment and accountability system that will be utilized during the term of the pilot program. Any local school system in the pilot program that is not complying with the terms of its charter system contract or strategic waivers school system contract may be removed from the pilot program at the sole discretion of the state board and shall be subject to the state-wide assessment requirements contained in Code Section 20-2-281 and the accountability system provided for in Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 14 of this title.

(e) The State Board of Education shall take all reasonable steps to obtain any necessary waivers or approvals and maximum flexibility from the U.S. Department of Education to facilitate the implementation of the innovative assessment pilot program within the confines of federal law, including any appropriate changes to the state-wide accountability system established in the state

plan for Georgia pursuant to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act that are necessary for the local school systems participating in the pilot program.

SB 362 also amended § 20-14-31 as follows:

Except as otherwise provided in this article, the office shall establish the levels of performance on each assessment instrument administered under Code Section 20-2-281 by establishing the standard that should be achieved by students in each subject area at each grade level. Data and information regarding the establishment of the standard shall be included in the annual report provided for in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Code Section 20-14-27; provided, however, that local school systems participating in the innovative assessment pilot program established pursuant to Code Section 20-2-286 shall only be measured on the reduced specific end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments as specified in the local school system's flexibility contract, as amended for participation in the innovative assessment pilot program.