Arkansas Department of Education
Schools of Innovation Application

Arkansas Department of Education
Division of Learning Services
Four Capitol Mall, Room 306-B
Little Rock, AR 72201
Email: ade.schoolsofinnovation@arkansas.gov
Phone: 501-683-4800

School LEA: 3403013

School Name: NEWPORT HIGH SCHOOL

Submitter Information

Submitter Name:	Terri Kane
Submitter E-mail:	tkane@newportschools.org
Submitter Phone:	8705231311
Date of application:	5/26/2016

District Information

District LEA:	3403000
District Name:	NEWPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT
Superintendent Name:	LARRY BENNETT
Superintendent Email:	lbennett@newportschools.org

General Questions

Special Conditions:	Need Improvement School
School Rating:	B
Is this a brand new LEA?	No
Is this an ALE School?	No

Vision and Mission

Vision: Better individuals. Better families. Better communities. Better lives. Creating a better world… through personalized learning.

Mission: The School of Innovation seeks to create an individualized learning environment that encourages high expectations for success through development-appropriate instruction that allows for individual differences and learning styles. Our school promotes a safe, caring, and supportive environment. We strive to have our caregivers, teachers, and community members actively involved in our students' academic endeavors through the use of personalized learning.

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Goals and Performance Targets

Rationale for Innovation

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Many of our students are either falling behind or are being held back due to the current educational model of learning. Currently, Newport High School (grades 7 - 12) has 514 students that are enlisted. However, this number has decreased continually over the previous school years'; from 520 students in 2014-2015, and from 560 students in 2013-2014. This shows that there has been an 8% decrease in the total number of students just in the

previous two school years. Multiple students enter high school with educational gaps that are virtually impossible to close because differentiated instruction for each student is limited by time and resources due to the capacity of students each teacher is responsible for teaching. However, we also have students who are not sufficiently challenged or able to accelerate according to their academic ability because of these same educational constraints. Therefore, we have parents/guardians who are removing their children from our school district because they do not feel we are meeting the academic needs of their child.

Education not only needs new ideas and interventions that shatter the typical "status quo" regarding performance expectations, but we believe it needs to make a meaningful impact in the lives of each individual student. True educational innovation will improve the educational needs on a greater scale; reaching out of the entirety of a class, and focusing directly on each individual student. The "traditional" methods have lacked truly personalizing the learning of adolescents.

Newport School of Innovation will allow teachers to accommodate and meet the academic, emotional, and social needs of every child through a personalized learning environment. Meeting the necessary needs of each individual student, our school could not only close achievement gaps, but could promote higher expectations through a rigorous curricula to ensure all students are college and/or career ready. This model of learning will allow teachers to meet with individual students who need more individualized instruction, while allowing those who are more advanced to continue their work without interruption. We believe that creating this environment will promote the idea that all students can learn the required content, at their own pace, in their own way.

In Newport School of Innovation, students have no limits! In regards to the academic requirements, there is no bullying, no peer pressure, no daily challenges or tasks... With no set boundaries in regards to a schedule for each course, students will show positive improvements in all core content areas because they are moving at their own pace. Teachers will encourage students to ask for assistance, attend class meetings, cover and recover material if necessary, and more. However, the responsibility of each course and its content relies on the individual students. With the innovation schedule, student referrals will decrease dramatically! Student referrals for disciplinary issues and tardies have been outrageously high. For example, from August - December of this current school year (2015 - 2016), the total number of referrals is 1,450. Compared to the 2014 - 2015 school year, the total number being 2,416 referrals, the amount has decreased. However, the first semester of this school year totaled 60% of the combined total from the previous school year. Though this number has decreased, the multiple referrals are causing daily interruptions and causing students to miss valuable instructional time with their teachers. Newport School of Innovation believes that providing this academic freedom will decrease some of the disciplinary issues. During flex time, students cannot be tardy, students will not be written up for a "class disruption", students can leave a location to avoid confrontation with unwanted students/teachers, students can have their phones and headphones, etc. This schedule provides the students with enough academic freedom that many disciplinary issues may not only decrease, but they may disappear.

In the past, "school" has just been equated with a building. However, Newport School of Innovation believes that it is a complex environment with many participants and stakeholders - students, teachers, caregivers, school leaders, community members, and more. We believe that creating a more positive, supportive learning environment is absolutely essential to promoting academic success and individual, intellectual development. We truly believe that innovation will create a positive change in the way we (students, teachers, caregivers, school district, and community) live and work.

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Goal	Goal Description	
1	A.Closing the achievement gap in individual students: One of the ideas behind Newport School of Innovation is to eliminate student failure. Students will not be allowed to simply fail a course. However, students will be required to reevaluate and review concepts where there is a gap in the content. Students have the control to pace their own required content within each course using the online competency based curriculum through Spark Education and the "flex schedule". If a student does poorly on an assignment, quiz, exam, etc. he/she can redo the assessment until the concept is understood. In fact, students will even have the option to retake an entire course if he/she feels that they can/should increase their overall average for that term.	

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| 2 | B.Raising ACT scores on an individual student basis in addition the school's average ACT score: In the past, Newport High School has provided opportunities for students to attend courses for assistance with the ACT. Whether it was the time, money, or capacity, more than half of the student body did not attend the courses. In fact, in the past, there have been students who did not even bother to take the ACT because they felt like they were not "college material". Newport School of Innovation strives to turn around this outlook in regards to the ACT. All students will be required to take the ACT at least once, based not only on the state requirements (testing with ACT and ACTAspire), but also the school requirements. Our school is currently challenging students to raise their ACT scores, however, the goal is not being met. Several students have not received a score that can even allow them to be accepted into college (an overall score of 19). Newport School of Innovation strives to get all students a score of a 19 or better; showing that students understand the basic concepts, and are capable of furthering their education after high school. However, the more important gain regarding ACT scores is improvement. With the help of our teachers and tutors, Newport School of Innovation will use the Spark Education curriculum to enhance basic understanding of the core subjects, which provide the tested content on the ACT and ACTAspire. | |

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Goal	Goal Description	
3	C.Reducing the dropout rate while increasing the high school graduation rate: Newport High School has had a dropout rate that has increased with each passing school year. In recent years, the dropout age-requirement has decreased to 16 years old. This allows three age divisions of students the potential to drop out of high school. Many students drop out of high school due to academic gaps, time constraints, or being bored/not challenged. Implementing Newport School of Innovation, all of these issues would more than decrease; they would be eliminated. Students control the pace in which they learn, and can move at an individual speed according to their schedule and knowledge of the content using Spark Education. Granted, it may take a student more time to understand one basic concept in a course. However, learning the concept at his/her own pace is much more important than never understanding the concept at all. Creating this academic freedom will decrease the dropout rate, leading to an automatic increase in the high school graduation rate. Not only would we decrease the dropout rate, but it would also increase the number of students who receive a high school diploma.	

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Goal	Goal Description	
4	D.Reducing student discipline school wide: In Newport School of Innovation, students will have the freedom, yet responsibility to create and promote their own academic success. Students will be provided options regarding the pace, location(s), and assistance with their required courses. Students will be given a variety of locations on the school campus where they will be allowed to work daily on their individual course work. Providing students with this academic freedom will reduce the disciplinary problems school-wide, knowing that the students can freely remove themselves from locations or people causing potential issues. Students will not be punished for tardiness during flex time; for not completing all of the daily work; for class disruptions by arguing with students/teachers; for acting out due to being academically behind and not wanting their peers to know; etc. Providing this freedom allows the students' to remove themselves from a problem before one is ever created, thus reducing the discipline school wide.	

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Innovations

Innovation	Purpose
In July of 2016, each student will be enrolled in an online competency based course that will be taught and monitored by our teachers using an online LMS to allow self pacing.	This will allow them to move at an individual pace. Teachers and tutors will be available during the flex time schedule to help students individually or in small group sessions.
In August 2016, Newport SOI will implement a flexible schedule that will allow students to move freely between the four core courses.	This will allow students and teachers to participate in a personalized learning environment for the four core classes (math, english, science, and social studies). This will foster their academic, social, and emotional needs while giving them the flexibility to choose how to spend their time on each class. This model will continue to allow them to participate in the career and technical classes as well as extracurricular activities that all high school students are afforded. The flex schedule will allow teachers to work one on one or in small groups with students.
In July 2016, students will be assigned a mentor to ensure that students are staying on tract with their courses while getting the help they need in areas that may be difficult for them.	This will council with each student throughout the duration of their high school career. Students will be required to meet with their mentor on a weekly basis. During this time the mentor will assess the progress of each mentee to ensure they are progressing successfully. In the event that a student is not meeting requirements the mentor will make contact with the parent/guardian to develop a plan of action for the student

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Innovation Plan

Plan Date	Action	Expected Outcome
08/12/2016	Newport School of Innovation Mentor Meeting will occur.	Mentors will meet regarding class meeting times, as well as mentor expectations for each student.
07/31/2016	Each individual, participating student will be enrolled in an online competency based curriculum.	Students that enroll in the online competency based curriculum will be successful in all core subjects. Because students can move at an individual pace, students will be able to complete assignments based on their own understanding of the content, continually ask for assistance if it is necessary, and locate themselves in an area they feel is appropriate and/or comfortable for learning. Given that students will succeed with this academic freedom, teachers will begin to see a decrease in the failure-rate in their classrooms.
08/03/2016	Newport School of Innovation Student Orientation will be hosted at Newport High School.	Participating students, as well as parents/guardians, will be invited to attend this event. Information regarding Newport School of Innovation and student expectations will be addressed. Students will receive information regarding their courses, mentors, and flex time.
07/03/2017	Increase internship opportunities for students.	Newport High School has been developing a work-based/internship program for two years. Newport School of Innovation plans to increase the opportunities for students to participate in the work-based/internship program.
05/31/2016	Hold a second community meeting to discuss the schedule and the plan Newport SOI has out in place.	This meeting will be an informative to discuss with parents and community member the plan that has been approved by the state department and the steps that will take place over the summer to ensure that students and teachers are ready for implementation for the 2016-2017 school year.
05/20/2016	Parent and student forum to discuss and open the application process for the Newport SOI.	Parents and students will be invited to hear the approval guidelines from ADE and get more information on the application process for the Newport SOI. Parents and students will be given the dates and deadlines for submitting their application.

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Plan Date	Action	Expected Outcome
08/01/2016	A "flexible schedule" will be implemented and offered.	The "flexible schedule" will be implemented through the online competency based curriculum. The online curriculum will include the four core subjects (math, english, science, and social studies). Students will be able to choose the offered location(s) of their core content learning during "flex time". Aside from the core content, students will still attend scheduled career and technical classes in the traditional classroom setting.
07/31/2016	Each individual, participating student will be assigned a mentor teacher/coach.	Mentors will council all men-tee students regarding academics and behavior on a weekly basis. Mentors will monitor student progress in each enrolled course, assist students with new course enrollment, and will also contact parents/guardians if students are not meeting the requirements.

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Requested Waivers

Code section, Rule, or Local Policy	Goal	Rationale
ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts 14.03	1	For students to work on their course work at their own pace without being bound to the 3600 minute mandatory class time. Since students will be moving at a pace that best suits their needs some may be moving at a faster pace which will allow them to finish a course early.
ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts 10.02	4	Teachers in grades 7-12 to instruct no more than 165 students each day instead of the 150, with class sizes not to exceed 30. Each flex teacher will have no more than 150 students scheduled in their daily schedule but they may see more than 150 students a day since they will have some students that may come in for one-on-one help with assignments.
ADE Rules Governing Standards for Accreditation for Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts 10.01.4	1	Planned instructional day, to allow less than 30 hours of instruction per week. Some students will not need direct instruction each day. Students will move through their instructional content at their own pace. While they will be in attendance for no less than 6 hours per day they may not necessarily need that amount of instruction each day.
Statute 6-15-902(a) ADE Rules Governing Uniform Grading Scale for Public Secondary Schools and for Optional Use in Public Elementary Schools	2	Pertaining to the grading scale, to allow a standards based grading system for students in grades 7-8; letter grades will be placed on transcripts for courses taken in the 7th and 8th grades for high school.
Arkansas Code 6-17-812 Compensation for teaching more than the maximum number of students	4	Flex teachers may have more than 150 students scheduled to them for instructional facilitator purposes but will not necessarily have more than 150 for instructional purposes.
Arkansas Code 6-16-102 School day hours	1	Students enrolled in the school of innovation are required to on school campus for no less that six hours per day but may not necessarily spend six hours in direct instruction since they will have the ability to work at their own pace.
Arkansas Code 6-18-211 Students in grades nine through twelve - Mandatory attendance	1	Students enrolled in the school of innovation has the ability to move ahead and finish course work earlier than the traditional schedule allows. This would allow students room in their schedule to participate in JAG and Internship programs in which students would spend a portion of their day off campus working in the community.
Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing the Arkansas Mandatory Attendance Requirements for Students in Grades Nine Through Twelve	1	To allow students the ability to leave school early or come at a later time of day to participate in internships and workforce programs.

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Council of Innovation

District:

School:

Minority at School   52.00%

Council Member Name	Representative Group	Minority	Position	Date Elected
Terri Kane	Principal	N	Chair	3/11/2016
Lisa Haigwood	Classified Staff	N	Member	3/11/2016
Mason Reeves	Certified Staff	N	Vice-Chair	3/11/2016
Denise Jiles	Certified Staff	N	Member	3/11/2016
Oshae Pruitt	Student	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Luke Samaniego	Student	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Hannah Hembrey	Student	N	Member	3/11/2016
Jadyn Brown	Student	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Jeff Rutledge	Parent/Guardian	N	Member	3/11/2016
Paul Briscoe	Parent/Guardian	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Demetria Baugh	Parent/Guardian	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Lauren Sampson	Community Member	N	Secretary	3/11/2016
Ronnie Brazwell	Community Member	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Sheridan Chadwell	Community Member	Y	Member	3/11/2016
Jared Elliott	Community Member	N	Member	3/11/2016
Shirley Miller	Community Member	Y	Member	3/11/2016

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Shared Leadership

Meeting Date	Meeting Purpose	No. of Teachers Present	No. of School Staff Present	No. of Parents Present	No. of Community Members Present	No. of Students Present	Meeting Outcome/ Planned Next Steps
1/21/2016	Initial meeting for information on the Salk Lake City visit.	6	6	0	0	0	Dr. Bennett will work on getting trip dates solidified.
3/1/2016	Salt Lake City School of Innovations visit	4	6	0	1	0	Visit with Ken Grover and develop a plan to take back to the NHS campus for implementation
3/10/2016	Board meeting to get approval for a school of innovations	6	15	2	0	0	Complete the application for a school of innovations and submit to the state department.
3/11/2016	Elect the council of innovations team	60	69	0	0	0	Meet with the COI team to develop a plan of action for the Newport SOI.
3/16/2016	Council of Innovation Meeting	4	1	4	3	4	Discussed the upcoming community meeting regarding basic information that the community needs to know about the Newport School of Innovation.

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Meeting Date	Meeting Purpose	No. of Teachers Present	No. of School Staff Present	No. of Parents Present	No. of Community Members Present	No. of Students Present	Meeting Outcome/ Planned Next Steps
3/17/2016	Faculty Vote	56	10	0	0	0	To allow faculty and staff to cast their vote for or against the Newport School of Innovation
2/24/2016	To go over last minute detail for the SLC visit and discuss the agenda for the visit.	4	8	0	0	0	Plan questions based off the videos that Dr. Bennett shared with the team.

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Election Results

Number of certified and classified on staff:	66
Number of staff who voted:	63
Number of staff who voted for proposed Plan:	52
Number of staff who voted against the proposed plan:	11
Percentage of staff voting in favor of the proposed Plan of Innovation:	83

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Professional Development Scope

Professional Development Plan Part 1

Date	Audience	Purpose of the Session
2/5/2016	Administrators	A one day personalized learning information session in Little Rock
12/10/2015	Administrators	A one day personalized learning session with Ken Grover at the Co-op
3/1/2016	Teachers, administrators, and community members	A one day visit to the Salt Lake City School of Innovation to meet with Ken Grover as well as faculty and students to understand more about personalized learning and see it in action.

Professional Development Plan Part 2

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Date	Audience	Purpose of the Session
5/31/2017	Faculty and students	Teachers will receive updates and possible changes that need to occur for the students enrolled in Newport School of Innovation.
1/27/2017	Faculty and staff, administration, community members	Newport School of Innovation faculty, staff, and administration will continue marketing progress (successful student stories), expanding counselor/mentor training and learning spaces, and will revisit and/or update strategic plans with the school board.
8/18/2017	Faculty and staff, administration, community members	Newport School of Innovation faculty, staff, and administration will realign courses as needed, continue to offer and train teachers regarding methods for personalized learning, and issues the first year's evaluation report with the school board.
6/29/2016	Faculty and staff, administrators	Startup summit camp for faculty, staff, and administrators to receive information regarding the Spark Education online competency based curriculum
7/15/2016	Faculty	Pacing Guides will be developed for each core subject by all teachers.
8/12/2016	Faculty	Teachers will receive information regarding expectations, requirements, and procedures describing the mentoring process.
12/16/2016	Faculty and students	Teachers will receive updates and possible changes that need to occur for the students enrolled in Newport School of Innovation.