Partnering with local communities to create innovative conditions for accelerating student achievement

Innovative School District Update to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee

By Dr. Eric Hall, ISD Superintendent
March 6, 2018
Innovative School
- Innovative School Operator -
A school with a history of low-performance operated by a qualified operator as authorized by the State Board of Education

Innovation Zone (I-Zone)
- Innovation Zone Leadership Team -
A group of schools with a history of low performance located in a school district where an innovative school is established; the schools are granted new flexibilities by the state in order to facilitate improved student achievement.
Why the ISD?
Low-Performing Schools 2016-17

- The number of low-performing schools is nearly equivalent to the total number of schools in Wake, Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Forsyth and Durham Counties combined.
- Increase of 16 schools since 2015-16 school year.
- There are 468 recurring low-performing schools, an increase of 53 schools since 2015-16 school year.
- Enrollment at low-performing schools: 251,831

2,139 schools w/grade C or better
505 schools w/grade D or F

81% 19%
Schools in North Carolina received a letter grade of F and did not meet growth last school year.

Schools in North Carolina received a letter grade of F and did not meet growth for the last 3 consecutive years.
ISD Launch – Robeson County

73 Districts with low-performing schools (located in 66 counties)

Southside Ashpole Elementary
Rowland, NC
(Robeson County)
School is Not Meeting or Only Meeting Growth

Students fall behind their peers enrolled at higher performing schools

Urgent Need for Intervention w/Accountability

Elementary School Grade-Level Proficiency

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School is Meeting or Exceeding Growth

Students are proficient in reading and math and prepared for middle school

School meeting performance expectations

Low-performing school

Strategic intervention needed to accelerate student growth and achievement
NCISD’s PROCESS TOWARDS IMPROVED ACHIEVEMENT

CONSIDERATION PHASE ➔ EVALUATION PHASE ➔ SELECTION PHASE ➔ ENGAGEMENT PHASE ➔ PARTNERSHIP PHASE ➔ TRANSITION PHASE
Why Southside Ashpole Elementary?
Criteria Used for Final Recommendation

- Comparison of most recent year’s school performance data
  (school performance scores/grades, grade level proficiency)

- Most recent three-year trend data
  (school performance scores/grades, grade-level proficiency)

- Overall school district performance
  (low-performing district, number of low-performing schools, percentage of low-performing schools)
## Comparison of Schools Considered for Transfer

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individual School</th>
<th>Willis Hare Elementary</th>
<th>Glenn Elementary</th>
<th>Williford Elementary</th>
<th>Southside/Ashpole Elementary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade Level Proficiency in 2016/2017</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average School Performance Score (3-year average: 2014 – 2017)</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| School Performance Grades | • 2014/2015 = D  
• 2015/2016 = D  
• 2016/2017 = F | • 2014/2015 = F  
• 2015/2016 = F  
• 2016/2017 = F | • 2014/2015 = D  
• 2015/2016 = F  
• 2016/2017 = F | • 2014/2015 = F  
• 2015/2016 = F  
• 2016/2017 = F |
| School District | Northampton County | Durham Public Schools | Nash Rocky Mount Public Schools | Public Schools of Robeson County |
| Number of Low-performing Schools in School System | 4 of 7  
57% | 18 of 50  
36% | 14 of 24  
58% | 27 of 41  
66% |
## 3-Year Grade Level Proficiency Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level Proficiency (GLP)</th>
<th>Willis Hare Elementary</th>
<th>Glenn Elementary</th>
<th>Williford Elementary</th>
<th>Southside/Ashpole Elementary</th>
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<td>2014-2015</td>
<td>44.5</td>
<td>29.4</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015-2016</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>30.0</td>
<td>27.4</td>
<td>23.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>31.1</td>
<td>32.3</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>18.4</td>
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</table>
Expanding Flexibility – Innovation Zone (I-Zone)

**Innovative School**
A low-performing school operated by a qualified operator as authorized by the State Board of Education.

**Innovation Zone (I-Zone)**
A group of low-performing schools in a local district (where an Innovative School is established) that can be granted additional flexibility to engage non-traditional strategies designed to promote student achievement.

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**LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

- Low-performing school
- Innovative School
- I-Zone
- Innovative Schools
- I-Zone Schools
What is the Community Saying?

LUMBERTON — The Board of Education of the Public Schools of Robeson County voted unanimously Tuesday to turn over management of Southside Ashpole Elementary School in Rowland to the North Carolina Innovative School District for five years beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

Source: The Robesonian

“After consultation with Eric Hall, I believe this is an opportunity for Rowland.”

Rev. Shawn Mitchell
Pastor, New Hope United Methodist Church
Rowland, NC

“It’ll give the students a better chance to learn. Do whatever’s possible that’s needed for the kids.”

Mikhaelle Bethea
Parent of student at Southside Ashpole
Rowland, NC

“To close a school is a terrible thing for any community. The Innovative School District will open up many opportunities for the students of Southside Ashpole.”

Lolita Watson
Resident
Rowland, NC

“I just think it’s (the ISD) going to mean so much to our little town and our school and those precious children.”

Michelle Shooter
Mayor, Rowland, NC

“I want to thank Dr. (Eric) Hall (ISD superintendent) for the excellent job he’s done communicating with us, and I want to thank the school board for working so well together.”

Brenda Fairley-Ferebee
Board Member
Public Schools of Robeson County
Identifying Transformative Partners
ISO Selection Process

Two organizations applied for consideration:
1. The Romine Group
2. Achievement for All Children

Evaluation process includes:
• Detailed review and evaluation of the application
• Background checks and review of qualifications
• Interviews with each organization’s leadership
• Engagement with local community representatives

On February 1, 2018 the State Board of Education extended the deadline for the selection of an ISO to April 15th at the request of the ISD Superintendent. The request also included the option to negotiate with the two current applicants in an effort to seek clarity and assurances of their capacity to operate Southside Ashpole Elementary. In the event that the ISD Superintendent is unable to negotiate or secure the necessary assurances, he was granted the approval to also engage alternate ISO entities for possible consideration if needed.
Selection & Matching of an Entity

The ISD has adopted a rigorous review process for identifying and selecting possible Innovative School Operators (ISO), for the operation of a selected qualifying school under contract for a period of 5 years.

ISOs, by General Statute, fall into two categories:

(1) The entity has a record of results in improving performance of persistently low-performing schools or improving performance of a substantial number of persistently low-performing students within a school or schools operated by the entity in this State or other states.

OR

(2) The entity has a credible and specific plan for dramatically improving student achievement in a low-performing school and provides evidence that the entity, or a contractual affiliate of such an entity, is either currently operating a school or schools in this State that provide students a sound, basic education or demonstrating consistent and substantial growth toward providing students a sound, basic education in the prior three school years.
**Innovative School Operators (ISO)**

*What are the possibilities?*

<table>
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<th>Examples of Potential ISO Partnerships</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Established local, state or national non-profit with a proven school turnaround leader</td>
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<td>• College or university who employs a proven turnaround school leader(s)</td>
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<td>• Proven/credible charter management/education management organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Corporation/business entity with a credible plan and a proven turnaround school leader(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Proven leader who creates their own entity</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
SCHOOL START-UP SUMMARY

- Recruit and hire school leader (employed by operator)
- Recruit and hire teachers (teachers employed by the ISD)
- Develop and implement policies and procedures
- Introduce curriculum and turnaround strategies
- Provide training/coaching and support to school staff to ensure effective implementation of plan to achieve desired outcomes
- Integrate school website w/ISD site

- Establish budget
- Develop and execute transition plan with local district
  - Transportation
  - Child nutrition
  - Pre-k program
  - Facilities
  - Equipment
  - Technology
  - Others
- Engage with local community, including parents/families
- And much, much more...

Start-up activities in partnership with the ISO, local school district and community
## Moving Forward

### A Continuum of Innovative & Accountable Interventions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STATEWIDE SUPPORT</th>
<th>DISTRICT SUPPORT</th>
<th>DIRECT SCHOOL SUPPORT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Recognition and Advancement</td>
<td>Moderate support w/coaching</td>
<td>Intensive support &amp; modeling</td>
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#### EMERGING STATEWIDE INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

- **Innovative School District Intervention**
  Under Administration of the State Superintendent and State Board of Education

- **I-Zone**
  Under Administration of a local district in coordination with the ISD

- **Other potential interventions** to address challenges at North Carolina’s 505 low-performing schools

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**Statewide System of Support**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>All Schools</th>
<th>Low-Performing Districts (11)</th>
<th>Bottom 5% of Schools (40)</th>
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**Existing Educator Support Services**

Under administration of NCDPI

**Emerging Statewide Intervention Strategies**

Under the ISD

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**Innovative School District Intervention**

Under Administration of the State Superintendent and State Board of Education

**I-Zone**

Under Administration of a local district in coordination with the ISD

**Other potential interventions** to address challenges at North Carolina’s 505 low-performing schools
## 117 Reform Model Approvals

### 2016

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- **29 Reform Models Approved**

### 2017

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- **80 Reform Models Approved**

### 2018

- **To Date – 8 Reform Models Approved**

### Notes:

- **I – Restart**
- **II – Transformation**

**NC INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT**
QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

For additional Information on the North Carolina Innovative School District, please visit:

www.InnovativeSchoolDistrict.org

Or contact:
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