



ENGAGE

innovative schools

Working together. Shaping the future of education.

We now have the opportunity to move beyond the limits of the classroom and traditional learning models. Together, we can make education more engaging, inspiring, and relevant to the world in which our students live—and the world they will influence for years to come. Through best practices based on current research findings and our shared experiences and goals, we can create schools of the future—that ignite students' natural desire to learn and prepare them for success in today's evolving global economy. Welcome to Microsoft's Innovative Schools Program.

It's not about giving answers. It's about helping find them.

Through our Innovative Schools Program, Microsoft and participating schools around the world work collaboratively, using research-inspired learning principles and best-in-class technology, integrated and adapted for local community needs. Our goal is to:

- **Break down barriers:** Microsoft is committed to breaking down the economic and social barriers that prevent educators from preparing our students from success.
- **Continue a worldwide effort:** The Innovative Schools Program delivers an actionable roadmap for technology integration to help participating schools realize their vision for education.
- **Fulfill a two-year commitment:** Over the course of two years, participating schools target four main goals: creating a public-private partnership, evolving curriculum development, creating dialogue among education professionals, and encouraging economic and community development through education.
- **Create a process for change:** Participating schools are being guided by a development process that finds the right answers for that particular school, and then provides an effective framework for decision-making.

Twelve locations. Limitless possibilities.

The schools chosen for the Innovative Schools Program participate in a rigorous application process focused on education leadership, their vision for learning, and the roles that students, educators, curriculum, and technology play in that vision. Located all over the globe, these schools serve their students in a variety of geographical, cultural, and economic environments, but all have several characteristics in common—characteristics you may recognize in your own school.

Vision for education. Each Innovative School is dedicated not only to educating students in the classroom, but to preparing them for life after school. This vision can take many forms, from personalized learning and diverse curriculum models that motivate students, to empowering students to direct their own learning, with educators taking a new role as mentor or coach to help guide the learning process.

Distributed leadership. Innovative Schools recognize that sustainability and system-wide acceptance for change starts with gaining support at national government, local district, and school leadership levels. It also requires a broad leadership team within a school—including administrators, teachers, and even students—and the inclusion of local communities in the school reform process.

Technology commitment. Innovative Schools view technology more as a catalyst for education change than as the primary driver for that change. At its best, technology provides a framework to guide students in their learning, points them to needed resources, and helps them extend learning beyond the classroom, creating a generation of lifelong learners.

Desire to learn. Innovative Schools have a strong desire to look outside their own systems and countries and learn from others, whether it involves sharing best practices with other schools in the program or taking advantage of Microsoft's experience.

A roadmap for effective change.

Working with Innovative Schools around the globe, together we've discovered an effective framework for decision making so that schools can find the answers that are right for them.

Introspection: Develop a supported vision for school change and define 21st-century learning inside a local context. Explore the process of innovative school design and the leadership necessary to initiate and sustain the design changes. Begin to establish pedagogy, culture, project benchmarks, and overall success metrics.

Investigation: Research and identify best practices and innovations within other educational models from the perspective of curriculum, instruction, and leadership. Cultivate relationships with advisors locally, nationally, and internationally to aid in discovery and prioritization processes.

Inclusion: Develop collaborative relationships and feedback mechanisms with the larger community to further develop the vision for change, including key leaders and other stakeholders, government officials, parents, and other schools. Learn from community members and leverage community resources, and through this process begin to explore the sustainability and scalability of change.

Innovation: Evaluate what has been learned up to this point to determine the innovations that will bring the school's goals to fruition. Consider best methods and ideas in all areas, including curriculum, pedagogy, leadership, technology, and learning space design.

Implementation: Put ideas and planning into practice. Activities and duration will vary by school and might include learning space construction, professional development, creation of the technology infrastructure, and piloting of new practices.

Insight: Reflect on the experiences throughout the change process and review outcomes in relation to your school's revised benchmarks and success metrics. Develop new processes for continued change and begin to think about how the school's successes can scale to other, similar schools.

"When people feel they are leaders whose mission is to promote excellence, then change is always on the agenda where it can benefit the learner." – Janice Corrigan, Dunshaughlin Community School, County Meath, Ireland



"I can't wait to come here because I don't know what we'll be doing next—I'm on the edge of my chair every day." – Jessica Nichols, ninth-grade learner, Philadelphia School of the Future



Through Innovative Schools, Microsoft works with governments, educators, and partners around the world, offering our most valuable resource: our people. We deliver assistance with intellectual property, technology expertise, experiential knowledge, and the support of our community. Together, we've created a process for locally tailoring technology integration and a roadmap for holistic school reform.

"We have a very happy relationship with Microsoft. They're always thinking one step ahead of us, anticipating our needs, and stepping in to help when they're needed," says Dr. Kasama Varavarn, secretary-general, Office of Basic Education Commission, Thailand.

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0308 Part No. 099-94812

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