



---

# **2025 Innovation Research Zone Pilot Projects**

Report to the Legislature

As required by Laws of Minnesota 2017, 1st Spec. Sess. chapter 5, article 2, section 52, subdivision 5

---

## For more information:

Gregory Keith  
Educator Workforce and Development Center  
Minnesota Department of Education  
400 NE Stinson Blvd.  
Minneapolis, MN 55413  
651-582-8316  
[gregory.keith@state.mn.us](mailto:gregory.keith@state.mn.us)  
[education.mn.gov](http://education.mn.gov)

As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197: This report cost approximately \$1002.66 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses.

*Upon request, this material will be made available in an alternative format such as large print, braille or audio recording. Printed on recycled paper.*

Table of Contents

For more information:..... 2

Legislative Charge ..... 4

Introduction..... 4

Analysis ..... 4

Conclusion ..... 4

## Legislative Charge

2017 Minnesota Laws, 1st Spec. Sess., chapter 5, article 2, section 52, subdivision 5 requires that:

Innovation research zone partnerships must submit project data to the commissioner in the form and manner provided for in the approved application. At least once every two years, the commissioner must analyze each innovation zone's progress in realizing the objectives of the innovation zone partnership's plan. The commissioner must summarize and categorize innovation zone plans and submit a report to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education by February 1 of each odd-numbered year in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 3.195.

## Introduction

Minnesota Innovation Research Zone statute recognizes that districts are keenly interested in pursuing innovative strategies for serving students. School districts continue to express interest in using innovative practices that engage community partners, personalize learning, support alternative pathways to graduation, and respond to the needs of the whole student.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is looking forward to revamping and restoring the Innovation Research Zone Pilot program in 2025. The program was formerly administered through the division of Public Engagement and was reassigned to the Educator Workforce and Development Center in fall of 2024. New MDE leadership responsible for administering and reporting on Innovation Zone projects is currently learning the history of the program to make recommendations for the program moving forward.

There are currently no approved innovation research zone partnerships or submitted plans pending approval.

## Analysis

There is no content to report in this section. There are currently no approved innovation research zone partnerships or submitted plans pending approval.

## Conclusion

There is no content to report in this section. There are currently no approved innovation research zone partnerships or submitted plans pending approval.