

HOW THE GEORGIA FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION DEFINES “INNOVATION”

Innovative education programs contribute solutions to improve outcomes for Georgia students.

FEATURE OF INNOVATION	PROGRAM APPLICATION	OUTCOME
TARGETS THE ROOT CAUSE OF PROBLEM	The program exists to solve a problem faced by a specific population by targeting its root cause in an inventive way.	Problem is mitigated or solved.
INCLUSIVE	The program was developed for and with students, teachers, and leaders.	The target population and other impacted populations benefit from a program which they helped develop.
DISRUPTIVE & TRANSFORMATIVE	The program has the potential to disrupt and permanently transform “education as usual.” The program exists to improve an aspect of or introduce a new approach to education at the classroom, school, or district level.	A new, inventive approach to an aspect of education has replaced its previous, ineffective iteration.
CONTEXTUALIZED	The program was created with consideration of the context in which it will be applied. Depending on the program focus, special attention was paid to the student/teacher target population, school neighborhood, and/or available external resources.	The program was built for the specific context in which it was applied and, as a result, can easily be scaled to other classrooms and schools in the district.
COLLABORATIVE	The program will utilize thoughtfully selected and creative community partners to meet financial and programmatic needs.	The school or district builds a strong partnership that connects the LEA to the community and/or local workforce. The partner is one that the LEA can utilize in future.
BREAKTHROUGH APPROACH	The program is an approach that has been rarely-before- or never-before-seen in the context.	The program serves as model for an educational approach that is new to the district and scalable.