



At-A-Glance: Innovation Zone (I-Zone)

Innovation Zones (I-Zones) are one method of intervention a school district may pursue to monitor, oversee, and improve the performance of schools designated as priority schools (i.e., schools performing in the bottom 5 percent in the state in overall achievement).



The Tennessee Department of Education must approve a district's plan to create an I-Zone as well as any schools designated for inclusion. Once approved, the district must establish an I-Zone office, appoint an office leader with management authority to hire staff for the office, and appoint a leader for each school placed in the I-Zone.



I-Zone schools remain under the management of the local school district but have autonomy over financial, programmatic, and staffing decisions, similar to the autonomy granted to schools placed in the Achievement School District.

Only districts with multiple priority schools can establish I-Zones.



As of 2017, Metro Nashville Public Schools, Shelby County Schools, Hamilton County Schools, and Knox County Schools have established I-Zones.