

INNOVATIVE

SCHOOL MODELS

EXEMPLARS



INTRODUCTION

The Innovative School Models grant opportunity expands on the department's initial ESSER investment of \$30 million with an additional \$500 million investment of state funds designed to eliminate structural barriers that exist between middle and high school, workforce, and postsecondary opportunities. These models allow students the ability to seamlessly make connections earlier and graduate high school prepared to successfully complete a postsecondary credential or excel in a career pathway of their choice.

In May 2021, the department awarded 21 school districts Innovative High School Model grants, which included an initial investment of \$30 million to foster local community partnerships that boost student readiness. These partnerships have already shown an incredible impact on students' experiences and readiness for the workforce and postsecondary opportunities.

The following districts are exemplars of the initial grant funding for the Innovative School Models Program.



MILAN, TRENTON, AND GIBSON COUNTY SPECIAL SCHOOLS

A consortium between **Milan, Trenton, and Gibson County Special Schools** was developed to implement a *Pathways to Success Project*, allowing students to attend high school through a modified school day at a partnering employer’s facility while also participating in a Career Advisement Program. By reimagining the traditional classroom setting, over 90 students have successfully met academic requirements through an *online platform* while working up to 30 hours per week at over **25 partnering employers**. Additionally, 13 staff members are being trained to become certified *Career Advisors* to provide students with the support and resources needed for career success. The project has made it possible to also hire *Work Support Coaches* who have provided students transportation to work sites, as well as ensured students are meeting and exceeding the expectations of their employers. Many students have formed lasting relationships with their employers, and several have already been offered full-time employment opportunities that include a life-sustaining wage, benefits, and overtime. After only one year of implementation, students participating in this Innovative School Model will have **earned over \$490,000**, making an incredible *economic impact* in West Tennessee!



“Besides the exponential growth of the program in just one school year, the invaluable skills our students have learned and the growth they have shown in the workplace has been our biggest accomplishment. Our students are excited to go to work and thank us for the opportunities they have been given. They appreciate the hard days they have experienced and the times we have held them accountable to help them succeed. We feel confident they are ready to be productive citizens and reliable employees. Our students have proven their potential and have made our entire staff extremely proud.”

– EMILY PITT

Innovative High School Project Director,
Gibson County Special School District



JACKSON-MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Jackson-Madison County Schools has established *Innovation Impact Institutes* at each of the district's seven high schools. Each Institute has a specialized focus linked to one of Tennessee's Career Clusters. Students' learning experiences have expanded to include activities such as: *building electric cars* through the Greenpower program; *writing and publishing a magazine* through the Madison Humanities Innovative Institute; *building a commercial-grade triple axle trailer* for the Solar Powered Tiny House Project at the SSHS Advanced Carpentry Institute; and *starting a drone* program and an eSports competitive team as part of the JASA Institute of STEM & Digital Entrepreneurship. The Advanced Manufacturing program was expanded at the new Workforce Development Center at JCM-Early College High to become a *certified Amatrol training site*. JMCSS also reimaged the school year through *Summer Institutes* where Liberty Tech Advanced Agriculture students work the crops at the Delta Faucet Liberty Acres site; NSHS students attend either BioSTEM or Law & Justice Summer Institutes; and students from multiple high schools complete a *summer work-based learning experience* with West Tennessee Healthcare. Teachers have also been able to participate in *educator inspiration trips*, focused on their content area and designed to ignite their passion and connect academic learning to real-world experiences.



LOUDON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Philadelphia School in Loudon County Schools *embeds STEM and CTE courses into middle school curricula*, giving students the opportunity to explore career pathways and *identify their interests early*. The school also offers

ACT Prep opportunities to all students, preparing them for success on the entrance exam before they even begin high school. All 6th grade students complete *2-week courses* in 7 different *career pathways*, as well as in ACT Prep. In 7th and 8th grade, students may enroll in a more in-depth CTE/STEM elective to further explore their areas of interest. In the fall semester of 7th and 8th grade, students are given a full-length past ACT test version by section within their regular core classes (i.e. English ACT section is given during ELA class, etc.). ACT Prep resources and strategies are included in course content ultimately preparing 7th and 8th graders to complete a full-length past ACT test version under fully simulated ACT conditions in the spring semester. Student *performance is recognized* through multiple criteria giving all students the chance to be *celebrated for their achievements*. ACT data is then passed along to the high school to inform future academic placement and ACT Prep programming!



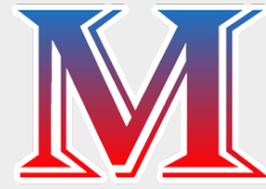
WAYNE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Collinwood High School in the Wayne County Schools has transformed the Bevis Educational Center into a *forestry training center* for students to take traditional and postsecondary coursework and access work-based learning opportunities. In addition to completing *dual enrollment* courses through Columbia State Community College, TCAT-Crump, and TCAT-Hohenwald, students have also had the opportunity to earn *industry certifications* such as OSHA 30. Students attending the Bevis Educational Center have access to *wraparound supportive services* from staff that include *academic interventions, transportation assistance*, and guidance in completing scholarship applications to continue their postsecondary education. *Career exploration* activities have also been *expanded into middle school grades* through the addition of College and Career Coaches dedicated to helping students understand the opportunities available in high school and beyond!

Wayne County SCHOOL SYSTEM

“Wayne County Schools students now have the ability to tailor their high school experiences to align with their future postsecondary goals through the IHSM Grant. Students also have the opportunity to complete CSCC in-person courses as well as online dual enrollment credits through TCAT Crump. Teachers, counselors, students, and parents have enjoyed working with our College and Career Coaches. Students have been excited to discover what potential careers they might best be suited for.”

– HEATHER WARREN
Wayne County Schools

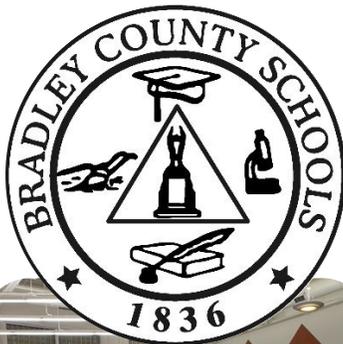


“Through experiences in the TAP program, students are not only observing diverse classroom settings; they are leading classrooms through planning, presenting, and assessing instruction alongside their mentoring teachers. The TAP curriculum learned in the first two courses comes to life in the upper-level classes through these work-based learning experiences. These opportunities foster the love of teaching in the TAP students as they experience the joy of educating children at their TAP placements.”

– KAYLEIGH BEASLEY
TAP Instructor, Macon County Schools

MACON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Macon County Schools has established a Teaching as a Profession (TAP) Program of Study for students from Macon and Jackson Counties that *accelerates and develops the next generation of teachers* by reimagining modes of learning, time and partnerships. Using state-of-the-art technology, the district has been able to offer *all students access* to the TAP program.



BRADLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Bradley County Schools has used the Innovative High School Models Grant to develop an *off-campus Innovation Center* that will enable the district to *reimagine scheduling and instructional time* for students. The PIE Innovation Center, set to open in August 2022, has *over 30 partners* that will provide work-based learning, secondary and postsecondary education, industry certifications, *pre-apprenticeships*, and *wraparound services in one building*. The overarching goal of the center is to provide students with a high school experience that involves industry, community, and educational partners and transforms learning *pathways*, provides *experiential learning in STEM*, embeds work-based learning experiences into the curricula, and promotes *design thinking in the classroom*. To prepare for opening the PIE Innovative Center, Bradley County Schools provided *professional development* for staff, enabling them to provide students with needed supportive services. As well as prepare staff with the tools and knowledge to reimagine students' schedules in a way that gives students *more time to participate in early postsecondary opportunities* and work-based learning during their last two years of high school.

“The Innovative High Schools Models Grant has provided funding to increase work-based learning experiences, industry certifications, and site-based experiences in the field of work. It has also provided students with hands-on experiences such as AgriSTEM showcases with local, regional, and state partners. Over 100 students have acquired at least 6 hours of dual enrollment credits. Students are now able to increase the STEM identity to improve the likelihood of a post-secondary STEM career.”

– DEDRIC MCGHEE

Memphis-Shelby County Schools



MEMPHIS-SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Memphis-Shelby County Schools has transformed Bolton High School into an *AgriSTEM high school* that enables students to take part in *hands-on learning experiences* in the areas of automotive maintenance and light repair, nursing services, food science, structural systems, supply chain management, and veterinary and animal science. Partnering employers have provided *industry professionals to teach* many of the dual enrollment classes offered at the school, equipping students with integral knowledge of *career options* and *workplace expectations*. In addition to gaining college credit, students also have access to complete many different industry certifications such as the Part 107 Commercial Drone Pilot License Certification, AMSA Food Safety & Science Certification, and Home Builders Institute Pre-Apprentice Certificate Training.

OAK RIDGE SCHOOLS

Oak Ridge Schools has reinvented an unused classroom at Oak Ridge High School, creating a *state-of-the-art manufacturing space* that houses equipment which enabled students to build the first Robotics Competition robot that ultimately won the Autonomous Award at the World Championship! *Learning has been reimagining* within this space to encourage students to utilize systems, design, integrative thinking and agile methods. The additive and subtractive *advanced manufacturing fabrication lab on-site* at Oak Ridge High School has made the high school a valuable *work-based learning enterprise* with partners from several businesses, including Tennessee Tool and Engineering, Oak Ridge Tool and Engineering, Lokar Inc., Performance Products, Scrum Inc., and Volunteer Aerospace. Additionally, students at Oak Ridge High School can now earn *industry certifications* in AutoDESK 3D Modeling, Scrum Master, and Scrum Registered Product Owner!

