IC 20-25.5
ARTICLE 25.5. INNOVATION NETWORK SCHOOLS

IC 20-25.5-1
Chapter 1. Findings

IC 20-25.5-1-1
General assembly findings
Sec. 1. The general assembly finds the following:

1) The Indianapolis Public Schools face challenges due to:
   (A) decades of declining enrollment that have resulted in
   significantly underutilized school buildings, unsustainable
   operating and maintenance costs, and steep reductions in
   revenue;
   (B) competition with an unusually large number of charter
   schools that are located within Indianapolis Public School
   boundaries as a result of legislation that granted the mayor of
   Indianapolis the unique authority to open charter schools and
   provided financial incentives for charter schools to locate
   within Indianapolis Public School boundaries;
   (C) an unusually high percentage of chronically
   low-performing schools, including four (4) schools that are
   under state intervention; and
   (D) a large number of newly built or recently renovated
   school buildings that are owned by the building corporation
   and serve as security for four (4) different bond issues.

2) A unique approach is necessary to allow the Indianapolis
   Public Schools:
   (A) to use existing underutilized facilities to open new,
   innovative, and autonomous schools either independently or
   in collaboration with school leaders or operators of high
   performing charter schools;
   (B) to offer more high-quality educational options to the
   students served by Indianapolis Public Schools; and
   (C) to produce improved academic performance and better
   serve all of the community stakeholders.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.
IC 20-25.5-2
Chapter 2. Applicability

IC 20-25.5-2-1
Applicability
Sec. 1. This article applies to a common school corporation that:
(1) is located in whole or in part in the most populous township
in a county having a population of more than seven hundred
thousand (700,000); and
(2) serves the largest geographical territory of any school
corporation in the county.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.
IC 20-25.5-3
Chapter 3. Definitions

IC 20-25.5-3-1
"Board"
Sec. 1. As used in this article, "board" has the meaning set forth in
IC 20-25-2-5.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-3-2
"Eligible school"
Sec. 2. As used in this article, "eligible school" means a school
that is part of a school corporation that:
(1) has been in the lowest two (2) categories of school
improvement for the last three (3) consecutive school years; or
(2) was operated by the school corporation as an innovation
network (iNetwork) school before January 1, 2014.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-3-3
"Innovation network school"
Sec. 3. As used in this article, "innovation network school" is a
school operated by a school management team under this article.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-3-4
"Participating innovation network charter school"
Sec. 4. As used in this article, "participating innovation network
charter school" means a charter school whose organizer enters into an
agreement under IC 20-25.5-5 to have the charter school participate
as an innovation network school.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-3-5
"School management team"
Sec. 5. As used in this article, "school management team" means
an entity responsible for the operations of an innovation network
school within a school corporation.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.
IC 20-25.5-4
Chapter 4. Establishment of Innovation Network Schools

IC 20-25.5-4-1
Discrimination prohibited
Sec. 1. An innovation network school is subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions that prohibit discrimination on the basis of the following:
(1) Disability.
(2) Race.
(3) Color.
(4) Gender.
(5) National origin.
(6) Religion.
(7) Ancestry.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-2
Establishment of innovation network school; terms of agreement; responsibilities of department
Sec. 2. (a) The board may enter into an agreement with a school management team to:
(1) except as provided in this subsection, establish an innovation network school within a vacant, underutilized, or underenrolled school building, as determined by the board; or
(2) reconstitute an eligible school as an innovation network school.
The board may not establish an innovation network school in the same building as a school described in subdivision (1) if the school was in the highest two (2) categories of school improvement in the most recent school year.
(b) The terms of the agreement shall specify the following:
(1) A statement that the innovation network school is considered to be part of the school corporation and not considered a separate local educational agency.
(2) A statement that the school management team authorizes the department to include the innovation network school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board.
(3) The amount of state and federal funding, including tuition support, that will be distributed by the school corporation to the innovation network school.
(4) The performance goals and accountability metrics agreed upon for the innovation network school.
(5) Grounds for termination of the agreement, including the right of termination if the school management team fails to:
   (A) comply with the conditions or procedures established in the agreement;
   (B) meet generally accepted fiscal management and
government accounting principles; 
(C) comply with applicable laws; or 
(D) meet the educational goals set forth in the agreement 
between the board and the school management team. 

c) If a school management team and the board enter into an 
agreement under subsection (a), the school management team and the 
board shall notify the department that an agreement has been made 
under this section within thirty (30) days of the agreement. 

d) Upon receipt of the notification under subsection (c), the 
department shall, for school years starting after the date of the 
agreement: 

(1) include the innovation network school's performance 
assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school 
corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by 
the state board; and 
(2) treat the innovation network school in the same manner as 
a school operated by the school corporation when calculating 
the total amount of state and federal funding to be distributed to 
the school corporation. 

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-3 
Use of property; contracts for goods or services with school 
corporation 
Sec. 3. (a) For as long as the school management team operates the 
innovation network school: 

(1) the school management team may use the school building, 
the accompanying real property, and the building's contents, 
equipment, and supplies, as provided in the agreement 
established in section 2 of this chapter; and 

(2) the school corporation may: 

(A) provide transportation for students attending the 
innovation network school; and 

(B) maintain and repair the buildings and grounds consistent 
with the maintenance and repair to the school corporation's 
other buildings and grounds. 

(b) If the school management team contracts with a school 
corporation for goods or services, the school corporation may not 
charge the school management team more for the goods or services 
than the school corporation pays for the goods or services. 

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-4 
Operational autonomy for school management team; employee 
contracts; collective bargaining; participation retirement fund 
Sec. 4. (a) The school management team shall have full 
operational autonomy to run the innovation network school as 
provided in the agreement described in section 2 of this chapter. 

(b) A school management team that operates an innovation 
network school under this chapter shall make all personnel decisions
in the innovation network school. In operating the school as an innovation network school under this chapter, the school management team is not bound by a contract entered into by the board under IC 20-29. Employees of a school management team may organize and collectively bargain under IC 20-29.

(c) Individuals employed by the innovation network school are entitled to participate in either:
   (1) the state teachers' retirement fund created by IC 5-10.4; or
   (2) the public employees' retirement fund created by IC 5-10.3.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-5
Applicability of statutes, rules, regulations, and guidelines

Sec. 5. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following do not apply to an innovation network school:
   (1) An Indiana statute applicable to a governing body or school corporation.
   (2) A rule or guideline adopted by the state board.
   (3) A rule or guideline adopted by the state board concerning teachers, except for those rules that assist a teacher in gaining or renewing a standard or advanced license.
   (4) A local regulation or policy adopted by a school corporation unless specifically incorporated in the agreement described in section 2 of this chapter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this article, the following statutes apply to an innovation network school:
   (1) IC 20-24-8-5 (statutes applicable to charter schools).
   (2) IC 20-30 (curriculum).
   (3) IC 20-24-6 (employment of teachers and other personnel in charter schools).
   (4) IC 20-28-11.5 (staff performance evaluations).

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-6
Enrollment of students living in attendance area

Sec. 6. Any student who lives in the attendance area served by a school that is operated as an innovation network school under this chapter may attend the innovation network school. The innovation network school may not refuse enrollment to a student who lives in the attendance area.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-7
Joint meetings

Sec. 7. The school management team and the board shall hold a joint public meeting at least two (2) times each year to discuss issues and progress concerning the innovation network school.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-8
Development of support program to establish innovation network schools

Sec. 8. The board shall develop a program to provide support to teachers and administrators who wish to establish an innovation network school.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-4-9
Maximum number eligible schools that may be reconstituted

Sec. 9. During the initial year of implementation of this article by the board, the maximum number of eligible schools that may be reconstituted as innovation network schools may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total number of schools operated by the school corporation.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.
IC 20-25.5-5
Chapter 5. Participation of Charter School as an Innovation Network School

IC 20-25.5-5-1
Applicability of laws to participating innovation network charter schools
Sec. 1. Except as expressly provided in this article, a participating innovation network charter school remains subject to all state laws that govern charter schools.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-5-2
Terms of agreement; notification of department; responsibilities of department
Sec. 2. (a) Notwithstanding IC 20-26-7-1, the board may enter into an agreement with an organizer to establish a participating innovation network charter school within a vacant, underutilized, or underenrolled school building, as determined by the board.
(b) The terms of the agreement entered into between the board and an organizer shall specify the following:
(1) A statement that the organizer authorizes the department to include the charter school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board.
(2) The amount of state funding, including tuition support, that will be distributed by the school corporation to the organizer.
(3) The performance goals and accountability metrics agreed upon for the charter school in the charter agreement between the organizer and the authorizer.
(c) If an organizer and the board enter into an agreement under subsection (a), the organizer and the board shall notify the department that the agreement has been made under this section within thirty (30) days after the agreement is entered into.
(d) Upon receipt of the notification under subsection (c), the department shall, for school years starting after the date of the agreement:
(1) include the participating innovation network charter school's performance assessment results under IC 20-31-8 when calculating the school corporation's performance assessment under rules adopted by the state board; and
(2) treat the participating innovation network charter school in the same manner as a school operated by the school corporation when calculating the total amount of state funding to be distributed to the school corporation.
As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-5-3
Transportation; maintenance and repair of buildings and grounds; contracts
Sec. 3. (a) For as long as the charter school remains a participating innovation network charter school, the school corporation may:

(1) provide transportation for students attending the participating innovation network charter school; and
(2) maintain and repair the buildings and grounds used by the participating innovation network charter school consistent with the maintenance and repair to the school corporation's other buildings and grounds.

(b) If an organizer contracts with a school corporation for goods or services, the school corporation may not charge the organizer more for the goods or services than the school corporation pays for the goods or services.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.

IC 20-25.5-5-4
Provision of services by school employee

Sec. 4. An employee of a school corporation who provides services to a participating innovation network charter school under this article remains an employee of the school corporation.

As added by P.L.44-2014, SEC.1.