Minnesota Charter Schools Innovation Awards

A Program of the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools

MN ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOLS

Unleashing education from convention

INNOVATION AWARD

Unleashing Education From Convention

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CHARTER SCHOOLS

What is Innovation?

Innovation

*"**Innovation** is not the same as invention."*

"***Innovation*** is *a change in a resource or a process that adds value or improvement."*

*" **Innovation** is the successful exploitation of ideas, generated at the intersection of invention and insight, which leads to social or economic value."*

-- Futurelab

The Purpose of the Minnesota Charter Schools Association's Innovation Awards Program

- To Rediscover the Innovative Roots of the Charter School Concept
- To Rekindle the Spirit of Innovation in the Charter School Movement
- To Recognize the Innovations of Charter School Educators

The Innovation Purposes of Charter Schools

1) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils

2) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods

3) Measure learning outcomes and create different and innovative forms of measuring outcomes

4) Establish new forms of accountability for schools

5) Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site

Innovation- ***is the catalyst to improve all pupil learning & achievement*.**

The Awards Program

- The Award Benefits
  - A $1,000 Cash Award *(unrestricted)*
  - Recognition in the MACS Innovation Newsletter & Website
  - Recognition at the MACS Innovation Conference
  - An organized Innovation Showcase Tour
    - The showcase will bring public recognition to the awarded schools by inviting media and civic leaders, i.e. *Chamber of Commerce members, members of the Legislature, and other high profile community leaders* to visit the schools to learn about your innovation.

- Why Recognition of Innovations by Chartered Schools Matters
  - Recognition helps advance the chartered school movement
  - Recognition ensures school's are fulfilling the promise of chartered schools
  - Recognition provides school's a platform to tell their story
  - Recognition demonstrates charter schools as leaders in improving and enhancing student learning

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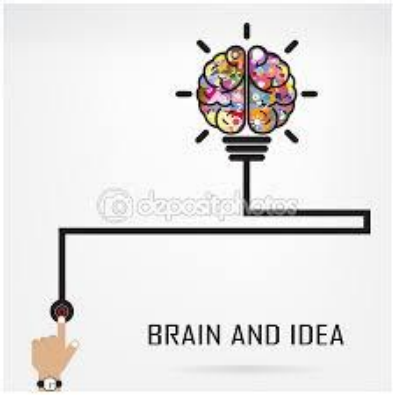
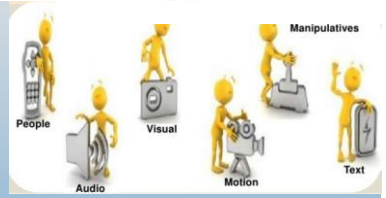
The Awards Five Criteria

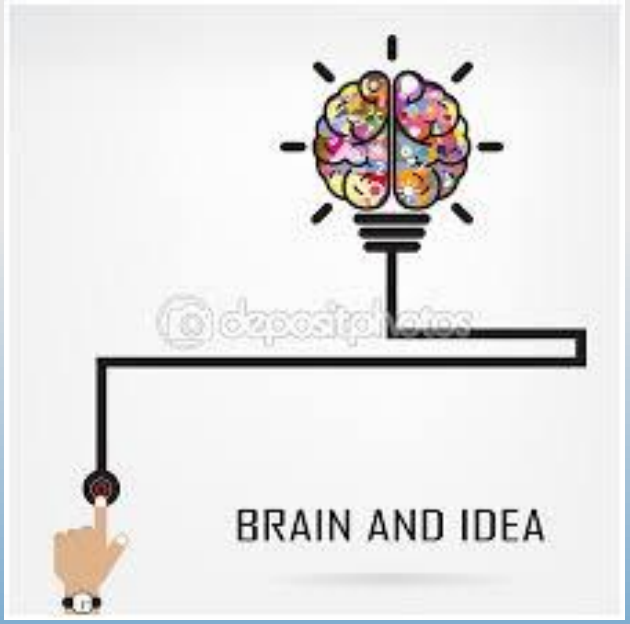
1) Concept
2) Value
3) Difference
4) Delivery
5) Impact





Concept

- Clearly identify the basis of the concept or idea
- Cleary identify the need or problem that the innovation addresses
- Clearly identify the process the school undertook in development of the innovation from concept to implementation



Value

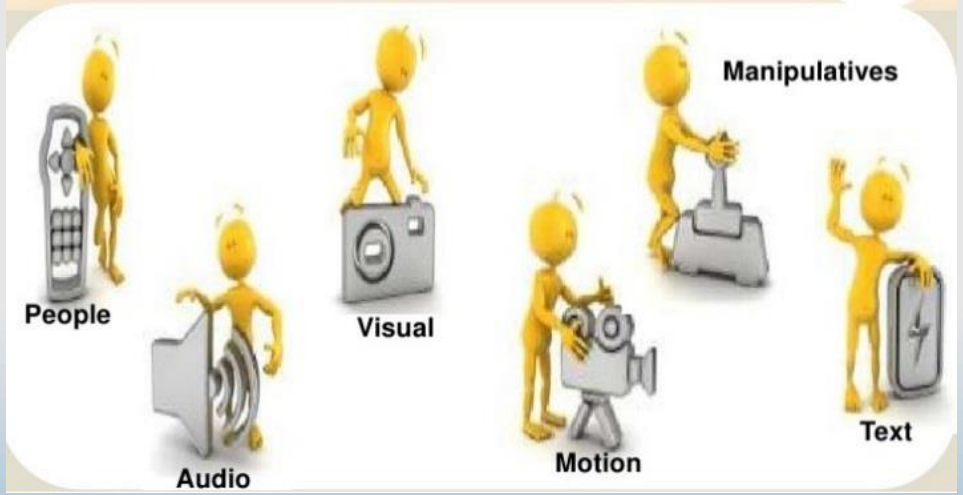
- Clearly identify how the innovation addresses the need or problem defined
- Clearly identify how the innovation’s cost is more effective than previous practice

Difference

- Clearly identify how the innovation is uniquely different as compared to previous practice

- Clearly identify how the innovation is an advantage to the school

Delivery



- Clearly identify how the innovation’s story has been communicated to the school community and it’s partners
- Clearly identify how the innovation is helping the school in fulfilling its mission and vision

Impact

- Clearly identify the innovation’s impact on the school environment

- Clearly identify how the school fosters and sustains an innovative culture

Application & Evaluation Process

- Submission of Applications
- Review of Written Applications
- Site Visits – Award Finalists [Implementation]
- Decision of Awardees

Written Application Scoring

A copy of the Written Application Evaluation Rubric can be downloaded here.

- Criteria Evaluation
  - Up to **5 Points** Available for Each of the 11 Application Questions
  - Up to **5 Bonus Points** - *Available for describing how innovation could impact other chartered and traditional public schools*

- Schools meeting Minimum Score Threshold have a site visit

Site Visit Scoring

- The Site Visit will be conducted to:
  - Assess how closely implementation of the innovations is reflected in practice, and mirrors the description in the written application

- Site Visit Points
  - School has fully implemented the innovation - initial score multiplied by 1, no change to initial score
  - School has partially implemented the innovation - initial score multiplied by 0.5, change to initial score
  - School has not clearly implemented the innovation - – initial score multiplied by 0, change to initial scoring

Technical Assistance Available

- Assistance in Assessing your School's Innovation Application
  - We can work with you to identify the dimensions of your innovation, and identify the award category it would best fall under.
- Assistance in Telling your School's Innovation Story
  - We can work with you to succinctly tell your story for the application.
- Assistance is Available via Phone, E-mail and/or In-person

Application Deadlines

- 2016 Application Dates
  - Application period opens - Monday, June 6, 2016
  - Application period closes - **Friday, August 12, 2016**
- 2017 Application Dates
  - Application period opens - Monday, December 12, 2016
  - Application period closes - **Friday, February 3, 2017**

The 2016 Application can be found here.

For more Information or Technical Assistance Contact

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- Minnesota Association of Charter Schools website
  - http://www.mncharterschools.org/

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