

**Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
G.S. 115C-75.13 – Annual Report by Independent Research
Organization on Implementation and Effectiveness of the
Innovative School District**

Pursuant G.S. 115C-75.13, by March 1 annually, the State Board of Education shall provide the report of the independent research commission, along with any recommended legislative changes to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

During 2017/2018 school year, the State Board of Education contracted with the Friday Institute at NC State University, an independent education research organization, to develop an evaluation design to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the North Carolina Innovative School District (ISD) and the Innovation Zones as defined in G.S. 115C-75.13.

As of February 9, 2018, this evaluation design remains in development by the research team at the Friday Institute. The intent is to have a final evaluation model fully developed by July 2018. Once the evaluation design is complete, the ISD Superintendent, under the administration of the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education, shall release a request for proposal (RFP) seeking to contract a qualified, credible and independent research organization to conduct the full evaluation of the ISD or the ISD Superintendent may consider a continuing contract with the Friday Institute to complete the full five-year evaluation per statutory requirements.

At this time, there is no report to present from the Friday Institute regarding the evaluation. However, once the report is completed, the ISD Superintendent will coordinate with the Friday Institute research team to provide a full presentation to the State Board of Education on the evaluation design. A corresponding report outlining the evaluation design will also be provided to the State Board of Education, with a copy also provided to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. It is projected that this presentation and corresponding report be completed by August 2018.