

CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL SOCIETY

Policy Title: Research and Innovation Fund Policy No. 4.07

RATIONALE: The Board of the Connect Charter School recognizes that research informs teaching practice and teaching informs research. The Board believes it is important to provide opportunities for the teaching staff to conduct action research and/or develop innovative teaching practices which are supportive of the school charter, strategic plan and the Connect Charter School descriptors of exemplary teaching and learning.

POLICY: The Board will provide for an annual Research and Innovation fund to support the implementation of action research and projects that promote innovative teaching practices.

PRINCIPLES:

1. Research and innovation is fundamental in promoting exemplary teaching and learning and thereby providing the best possible learning environment for each student.
2. The fund is intended to support and promote a strong culture of research and innovation in the school, where teachers are encouraged to be researchers, innovators and demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit in collaboration with their students and peers.
3. A significant expectation of the research and innovation initiative is for teachers to share their experiences within the school and in the broader educational community.

First Reading September 20, 2011

Adopted October 25, 2011

Amended December 13, 2011

PROCEDURES

1. The Connect Charter School Professional Improvement Assistance Committee will review the submissions and approve those that meet the specified criteria for funding. Applications must be submitted on the third Friday of each month from September – February or until such time that the funding has been fully allocated for the school year.
2. Project proposals will be in keeping with board policy, university ethical guidelines (where applicable) and government regulations such as FOIPP. Provision should be in place to maintain confidentiality and to ensure that the learning of the Connect Charter School students is in no way negatively impacted by the project.
3. Project proposals should reflect one or more of the Connect Charter School descriptors of exemplary teaching and learning and must demonstrate potential for benefiting teachers and students within the school and beyond.
4. Project proposal format:
 - a. Identification of the question/problem/issue to be explored.
 - b. Describe the relevance and merit of the project with reference to the Exemplary Teaching and Learning Frameworks.
 - c. Provide a detailed overview of the project implementation strategies, including a preliminary review of current research on the topic, timelines, ongoing communication relating to the progress, indicators of success and outcomes or deliverables (what will result from the project).
 - d. Whenever possible, provision should be made for involving colleagues, students, and parents.
 - e. Funding - \$2000 will be allocated for individual projects and \$4000 for projects conducted as a team. There would be an expectation of approx. 40 hours for each \$2000 unit. Provision could be made to apply for funding in subsequent years to expand on the project.
5. Provision must be made in each proposal for sharing key findings and highlights from the project within the school and with other schools through such things as blogging, presentations (at professional conferences or webinars), information sharing on the school website and the completion of a project report as prescribed by the Professional Improvement Assistance Committee.