



Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools

Choice, Quality and Accountability in Public Education

Innovation Strand FAQs

What is the Innovation Strand?

The Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools adopted the Innovation Strand in 2019 to highlight innovative educators throughout the brick & mortar and cyber charter school communities.

What is the purpose of the Innovation Strand?

According to Charter School Law, the original purpose of charter schools was to promote innovative educational practices and share them with the public school community at large. The Innovation Strand commits to that promise by sharing the best practices in education with the larger community.

What is the format of the Innovation Strand?

The Innovation Strand seeks to highlight the most innovative educational practices in both a concise and implementable structure. As such, each Innovation Strand presentation is 12 minutes long. This requires presenters to focus on only 1 or 2 topics. Within the overall conference's 55 minute break out session framework, this allows for three 12 minute innovation presentations, followed by a 12 minute panel discussion composed of the presenters. The panel discussion allows audience members to ask questions that may allow them to implement the innovative ideas into their own schools and programs.

Why does the Innovation Strand have a different format than other presentations?

The goal of the Innovation Strand is to highlight as many innovative educators as possible. By forcing presenters to limit their presentations to 12 minutes, audience members are exposed to a variety of innovative educational practices while also having time to interact with the presenters.

What are the benefits of presenting within the Innovation Strand?

Innovation Strand presentations are recorded and presenters are encouraged to share the recordings within their own professional communities. In addition, PCPCS may share the recordings. Finally, presenters may be asked by various schools to help lead or consult on the implementation of their innovative ideas in other school communities.

How is the Innovation Strand presentation style different from any other presentation?

Because innovation strand presenters are limited to 12 minutes, they must focus on only 1 or 2 topics. These TED-style presentations are fast-paced, concise, and exciting. Presenters can showcase their

innovative ideas in whatever manner they feel will be most engaging to the audience while providing real and practical opportunities for audience members to integrate those ideas within their own respective schools and programs.

Can I get assistance with planning and preparing for my Innovation Strand presentation?

Yes. All innovation strand presenters will have access to previous presenters as well as a Multimedia Developer to help create a powerful 12 minute presentation.

How are the Innovation Strand presenters grouped together?

After the Innovation Strand presenters are selected, common themes tend to emerge. As a result, Innovation Strand presenters are grouped together around those common themes for continuity and to support synergistic opportunities for increased innovation. For example, Pushing the Boundaries of Education, Challenging Outdated Educational Paradigms, Placing Students at the Heart of Innovation, were all themes during the 2019 PCPCS Conference.

Please note, as you begin developing your own Innovation Strand presentation, do not feel constrained by the previous year's themes. New themes will be developed based on the Innovation Strand presentations that are selected.

Will I get to review the panel discussion questions prior to the event?

Yes and no. Once the Innovation Strand presenters are grouped together, they will be introduced to each other and the common theme will be explained. In addition, sample panel discussion questions will be provided. That said, audience members are encouraged to ask questions during the panel discussion.