About R2 Innovates

R2 Innovates, an incubator, laboratory and hub for innovation, was created in 2013 to encourage Richland Two staff members to develop innovative practices which support the four district priorities: learning, character, community and joy. Richland Two leadership believes that teachers and staff members have great ideas that can bring positive change in Richland Two with the right mentoring, resources and support. The R2 Innovates process identifies teams with great ideas and works with them to put their ideas into actions. The R2 Innovates Innovation Advisory group looks for ideas that are desirable, feasible, and viable with the potential for scaling across the district.

Incubator teams are identified through an application process in the late spring of each school year. Teams make initial pitches of their idea and then are provided with a two day workshop to help them further develop their ideas through the human-centered design process. Teams that successfully complete a final pitch are provided with mentors, time to prototype their ideas, time to collaborate with other teams, and financial backing.They also have access to the R2 Innovates hub space at R2i2 for work sessions and team events.

R2 Innovates is expanding to provide more services and support to schools and departments as they seek new solutions to identified problems. R2 Innovates hosts a variety of workshops and events to facilitate the design and development of promising practices. The hub is also seeking partner organizations to provide staff with additional mentoring and resources.

Over the past three years, 22 teams and over 200 staff members have participated in the R2 Innovates incubator. All schools have benefited from programs that have scaled through the innovation process. Some examples include the Level Up micro-credentials for technology integration, the Si Se Puede program which empowers families to ensure Latino student success, and a district-wide implementation of an early warning system to facilitate all students having support at the time of need. More information about R2 Innovates teams and their work is available on the R2 Innovates website.