

# #VAis4Learners

# Innovation Network

Monthly Cohort Update - April 2020



## Opening Message



## Finding Bright Spots

As educators across the country respond to this spring's circumstances, the weight of the challenges facing our communities can sometimes feel unbearable. Moreover, trying to



**When:** Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 PM

**Where:** This is an Online Event. Log onto Twitter and search for #VaLINchat

**What:** Questions for this week are below

Intro Q: Welcome to #VaLINchat! Our focus for the chat is how current circumstances have impacted our view of professional learning. Introduce yourself by sharing your name, role, and one surprising thing you've learned about yourself over the past several weeks.

Q1: How have current circumstances impacted your beliefs about what professional learning is or might be?

Q2: The learning environment has changed for students. What might need to change to maximize the professional learning environment for educators?

Q3: What are priority areas for professional learning in your division?

Q4: What professional strategy/practice/resource do you recommend for educators right now?

Q5: Share the best example you have tried or heard about how educators are learning together right now?

Q6: How are/might leaders model professional learning?

Final Q (FQ) Regarding Professional Learning, complete the stems:  
"I used to think-----, and now I think---."

## Learning Design Interactive Webinar Series

Many educators across the country have found that simply trying to post in-class materials online has had little impact on learning, especially for the many families that simply can't access online learning.



Based on a request by educators in Essex County, VaLIN coaches developed a design framework based on common instructional design principles that could guide the development of five days of learning activities for off- or online delivery. They developed examples in multiple subject areas and grade bands, as well. The framework and samples were shared with VaLIN teams from across the commonwealth through a series of interactive webinars. Educators representing over 20 divisions (extending outside Virginia) and serving in roles of teacher, school leader, specialist and superintendent came together to grapple with the realities of teaching in an emergency online environment, brainstorm solutions to learning challenges, and design cross-curricular learning experiences to engage ALL students.

You can access the framework, sample learning ideas, and a jointly developed middle school science and language arts learning module. If you or members of your team need support using these materials in your division, reach out to your VaLIN coach!

[Learning Design Framework](#)

[Ideas from the #VaLIN Brain Trust](#)

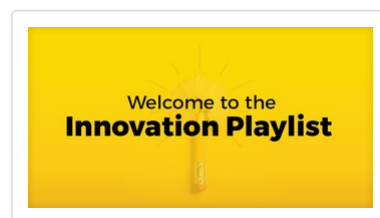
[Middle School Science/ELA Learning Module with a Communication focus](#)

[YouTube Playlist of recorded sessions](#)

## What's Happening? Education and Covid 19

Recently, Alaina Trott, Director of Strategic Initiatives for Chesapeake Public Schools, was interviewed to share insights on major concerns around equity issues in the Covid-19 world. [Click](#) to hear her interview and other other stories of Covid-19 from around the globe.

## Free for a Limited Time: Most Likely to Succeed



Ted is making *Most Likely to Succeed* available for streaming for free during the all of this craziness. The free link is available on the [Innovation Playlist](#) and also on [Vimeo](#). If any divisions are interested in planning and implementing an online Community Night discussion using *Most Likely to Succeed* and/or *What Schools Could Be*, reach out to [Becky Ellis](#) for support.

## Crowdsourcing Innovations

## #VaLIN Brain Trust

What do you do to reach the lost or disengaged learners?

Your answer

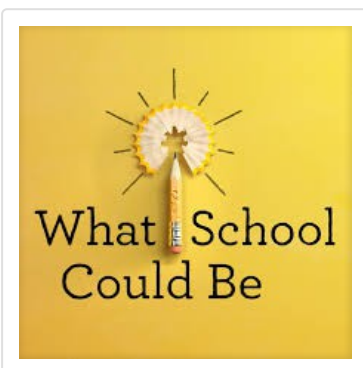
Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.



This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google. [Report Abuse](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Privacy Policy](#).

# boundless



Boundless will be running an online *What School Could Be* book study for VaLIN teams with Ted Dintersmith and other special guests. Stay tuned for more information in the near future.

Need more copies of the book? Please [contact Becky](#) to arrange to obtain FREE copies. And if you can't wait to get started, try using [this discussion guide](#) from Ted.

Follow us on Twitter [#VaLIN](#) [#VAis4Learners](#)

# Next Meeting Event

## WHEN

Thursday, July 23rd, 8am-4pm

## WHERE

TBA

## MORE INFORMATION

Still tentatively scheduled and we are talking about the possibilities. More information will be released as available.



## About Advanced Learning Partnerships

 @alplearn

ALP is a partner, designer, and agent of change. We move beyond the expert mindset and one-size-fits-all, quick fix solutions.

 ALP@advancedpartnerships.c...  alplearn.com

Virginia is for Learners is an initiative of the [Virginia Department of Education](#), the [Virginia School Consortium for Learning](#) (VaSCL), and James Madison University with support from [Ted Dintersmith](#). Coaching is provided by [Advanced Learning Partnerships](#), [Dr. Scott McLeod](#) from the University of Colorado at Denver, and [Kaleb Rashad](#) from High Tech High Graduate School of Education.