



**VIRGINIA
IS FOR
LEARNERS**

James F. Lane, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMAIL

Contact: John Hendron, 804-225-4387

DATE: June 9, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUPT'S EMAIL: Invitation to Join the Virginia Innovation Learning Network
Cohort 3.0

Since 2019, approximately 60 of the 132 Virginia school divisions have benefited through engagement in the Virginia is for Learners Innovation Network (VaLIN - #VALIN). With support from the Virginia Department of Education and the EDU21C (Dintersmith) Foundation, VaLIN are pleased to announce that the **VaLIN Cohort 3.0 will launch this fall**. For the first time, school divisions that participated in either the 2019 or 2020 cohorts are eligible to submit proposals for potential inclusion in this year's 2021 cohort.

Up to 35 school division teams, consisting of up to 7 members per team, will be selected to participate in a sequence of whole-group on-site and virtual convenings as well as strategic activities facilitated by experienced, skilled coaches. Conditions permitting, VaLIN plans to host Cohort 3.0 on October 7-8, 2021, March 9, 2022, and June 22, 2022 in Chesterfield at the CTE Hull Street Center. Dates will be confirmed with Cohort 3.0 teams in July.

All school divisions across the Commonwealth are invited to submit an application between June 10-29, 2021. School divisions may apply independently or as a collaborative multi-division team by accessing the [VaLIN Application Form](#). In addition to the financial support from the Virginia Department of Education and The Dintersmith Foundation, a fee of \$2,500 will be charged to each participating school division team to offset a fraction of expenses and to nurture Network sustainability.

VaLIN will also offer Virtual Office Hours to provide time for you to meet with some of our coaches if you would like to discuss your application or have questions about the process.

Office Hours Schedule and [Zoom link](#) for virtual sessions:

June 17 – 8-9 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.	June 22 – 8-9 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.
June 24 – 8-9 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.	June 28 – 8-9 a.m. & 4-5 p.m.

By intentionally connecting school divisions that already have participated in the innovation network together with new school divisions, Cohort 3.0 will advance work to develop local assessment capacity, share assessment resources, and cross-pollinate implementation of performance assessments across school divisions. Cohort 3.0 teams also will strategically prioritize and advance local goals that align with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate through one or more of the following Innovation Playlist themes:

- Mobilizing Community to work collaboratively toward a shared goal;
- Student-Driven Learning that developing and sustaining equitable student agency;
- Real-World Challenges that lead to innovative, intrinsically motivated problem-solvers;
- Authentic Assessments that both capture higher-order and consequential learning; and
- Caring and Connected Community that extend powerful practices essential to building social-emotional competencies and inclusive, equity-driven communities.

For more information

We are excited about the potential of VaLIN Cohort 3.0 and eager to hear back from you. If you have questions, please contact VaLIN Co-chair Gena Keller, Executive Director, Commonwealth Learning Partnership at gena@commonwealthlearningpartnership.org; or VaLIN Co-chair Pam Moran, Executive Director, Virginia School Consortium for Learning at pmoran@vascl.org.

JFL/MFB/oml