Summary of ARCC Initiatives: Virginia, 2012-13

VA-01: Improve Online Instructional Resources for Teachers and Division Staff
The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) seeks to update its Division of Instruction website with the inclusion of more effective, interactive resources for teachers and division staff. Initially, ARCC staff will collaborate with VDOE to review online trainings, materials, and resources currently available on the website. Additional feedback will be gathered from a teacher and division staff survey collaboratively developed, administered, and analyzed by ARCC and VDOE staff about the comprehensiveness and usefulness of existing website resources. The Center on Standards and Assessments, the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, the Center on College and Career Readiness and Success, and the custodians of the National High School Center will be invited to assist the ARCC in identifying resources appropriate for an updated, high-quality instructional support website. VDOE and ARCC will use results from the website content review and survey to identify website strengths and then make recommendations for improvements in content and structure.

VA-02: Integration of Technology in Professional Development
The VDOE is engaged in an effort to integrate technology more fully in each of the core instructional areas. Staff from the VDOE Office of Educational Technology and the Office of Instruction will participate in discussions coordinated and facilitated by the ARCC to review proposed professional development plans for the 2013-2014 school year. ARCC staff will facilitate work sessions to brainstorm ideas for integrating technology and e-media into existing PD plans and for improving communication effectiveness. The ARCC will also assist VDOE to identify areas in which Division of Instruction staff could use various media to increase the impact and effectiveness of their presentations. Partnering with the Center on Innovations in Learning, the ARCC will help VODE staff identify effective strategies for integration of e-media and other technological resources into professional development. Using such information, ARCC staff will facilitate training for Division of Instruction staff on the use of multiple educational technologies and research-based teaching techniques to provide more engaging professional development sessions.

VA-03: English Language Learner Instruction – Strategies for Core Content Teacher
Partnering with the Center on School Turnaround, the ARCC will facilitate reviews of the latest research on effective practices for supporting English Language Learners (ELLs) in the core content areas. ARCC staff will present findings to VDOE, ELL, and content area staff in the Division of Instruction in October of 2013.

VA-04: Build Online Samples of Achievement Goals
In collaboration with the Center for Great Teachers and Leaders, ARCC staff will seek information about effective development and implementation of a digital site in which teachers could house and access samples of student achievement goals in non-tested subjects and grades. (Such student achievement goals are one measure of performance in the state's newly

revised teacher evaluation system.) ARCC will share information from the Great Teachers and Leaders Center on sample sites from other states, their content, and their organizational structure. In addition, the ARCC will collaborate with VDOE staff to review current state resources for creating specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely (SMART) goals. Lastly, ARCC and VDOE staff will use available information to determine next steps for creating sets of sample student achievement SMART goals for teachers of non-tested grades and subjects, and for designing structure for disseminating such samples.

VA-05: Sustainable Funding Streams to Support School Turnaround
The ARCC will collaborate with the Center on School Turnaround and the Center for Building State Capacity and Productivity to review and summarize effective SEA practices for sustaining school turnaround funding after federal funds are expended, especially in terms of effective blending of funds and adjustments to funding allocations. ARCC staff will then share initial findings from the review with VDOE Office of School Improvement personnel, as well as recommendations for sustaining funding to turn around the lowest-performing schools.

VA-06: Supporting the Use of Formative Assessment Instructional Practices
VDOE is working to promote and support the use of formative assessment instructional practices in classrooms across the state. Partnering with the Center for Standards and Assessment Implementation, the ARCC will identify resources and protocols for embedding formative assessment practices in classrooms to improve learning outcomes for all students, especially those struggling with learning, students with disabilities, and English learners. ARCC staff will facilitate a meeting with VDOE staff to discuss and plan strategies to support school divisions with information about what formative assessment is and does, how it informs instruction, and how its use can increase learning.