Our Work in Virginia
October 1, 2013–September 30, 2014

VA-01: Improve Online Instructional Resources for Teachers and Division Staff

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to improve its Division of Instruction website to support instruction in all subject areas by providing access to more resources for teachers and division staff, including a more effective, interactive professional development calendar and a library of webinars and video clips. ARCC will collaborate with VDOE to recommend changes in the content and structure of the Division of Instruction's website to improve its accessibility, comprehensiveness, and usefulness. This effort to identify resources for teachers and division staff will feature work with the Center on Standards and Assessments, the Center on Great Teachers and Leaders, the College & Career Readiness & Success Center, and the custodians of the National High School Center. ARCC will collaborate with VDOE to develop a plan to modify the website's content and structure and collect meaningful data on its usability, and provide on-going assistance to enhance VDOE's capacity to implement modifications to the website and monitor its use.

VA-02: Integration of Technology in Professional Development

The VDOE Division of Instruction has requested technical assistance to integrate technology into the Division's professional development (PD) offerings in each of the core instructional areas. The ARCC will facilitate a discussion with the Division of Instruction regarding its PD plan for the 2013-2014 school year, addressing ways to integrate technology and e-media into the plan. VDOE will also partner with the Center on Innovations in Learning to identify effective practices in the integration of e-media and other technological resources into PD delivered to local educational agencies (LEAs). ARCC will assist with training Division staff on effective integration of technology into PD, including the real-time development of e-media and other technology-based resources for an upcoming PD session based on effective practices research conducted by the Center on Innovations in Learning, and aligned with the VDOE Office of Educational Technology's plan for the 2013-2014 school year.

VA-03: English Language Learner Instruction – Strategies for Core Content Teachers

VDOE will provide professional development to build the capacity of its staff in the Division of Instruction and the Office of Program Administration and Accountability to support the use of the most promising instructional strategies to support English language learners (ELLs) in the core content areas. ARCC will collaborate with the Division of Instruction to determine capacity building needs and design a plan for the 2013-2014 school year. ARCC will work with VDOE staff to conduct training for VDOE core content and ELL staff based on effective practices research. After the training, the ARCC, VDOE ELL staff and the leadership of the Division of Instruction will debrief the training and determine next steps for enhancing the capacity of VDOE staff who support ELL instruction.

VA-04: Build Online Library of Resources for Using Student Achievement Goals in Teacher Evaluation

VDOE seeks to develop the capacity to provide sample student achievement goals to teachers of all non-tested subjects and grades as a resource to support their development of quality student achievement goals—also called student learning objectives (SLOs)—based on SMART criteria. ARCC and VDOE will collaborate with the Center for Great Teachers and Leaders to develop a plan for this initiative, including training for VDOE staff, participation of content specialists at student achievement goals trainings for local division teachers and leaders, and making appropriate national resources available. ARCC will also collaborate with VDOE to review current resources for SMART goals and determine next steps for the development of sample goals for non-tested subjects and grades.

VA-05: Sustainable Funding Streams to Support School Turnaround

VDOE intends to build its capacity to enhance its knowledge and expertise regarding the re-allocation of existing funds in order to continue supporting school turnaround after the current federal funding sources are no longer available. ARCC will collaborate with VDOE staff to review and summarize the implications of effective state agency practices for sustaining school turnaround, identified through partnership with the Center on School Turnaround. ARCC will analyze state funding models to recommend next steps for VDOE and partner with the Center on School Turnaround to coordinate a regional workshop on sustaining school turnaround after federal funding. ARCC will also partner with VDOE, the Center for Building State Capacity and Productivity, and the Center on School Turnaround to recommend adjustments to existing funding allocations to allow for continued funding to support school turnaround, and conduct a regional workshop or online capacity-building series on sustainability.

VA-06: Supporting the Use of Formative Assessment Instructional Practices

VDOE would like to promote and support the use of formative assessment instructional practices in the classroom and desires capacity building to support teachers and school divisions in understanding and integrating such practices. ARCC will collaborate with the Center on Standards and Assessments Implementation to provide a set of training materials for VDOE and division staff on classroom-based formative assessment instructional practices. ARCC will provide on-going assistance to VDOE in its implementation of the training for VDOE staff in order to build their capacity and develop a plan to assist local school divisions in adopting these practices.