

# Collaborative Learning in Vermont: Greater than the Sum of Its Parts

## Video Transcript

**Meg O'Donnell, Teacher, Shelburne Community School:** We're at the UVM Davis Center for the Middle Grades Collaborative follow up conference around educators presenting their learning from the work that they did at the Middle Grades Institute over the summer.

**James Nagle, Co-Director, Middle Grades Collaborative:** Back in 2013, the Vermont legislature enacted Act 77, which basically incorporated really a new set of proficiencies, Flexible Pathways, and also personalized learning into the curriculum here in Vermont.

**Lindsey Halman, Teacher, Essex Middle School:** I presented today as a member of the PLP Pathways. This morning was an opportunity for us to share who we are, what we do, and some of the interesting aspects of collaboration with other professionals throughout the state of Vermont in hopes that other people will join us on those conversations.

**Sam Nelson, Teacher, Shelburne Community School:** My focus this year, my action research project, was focusing on how I'm using Flexible Pathways and proficiency-based learning in my classroom.

**Kimberly Hunt, Teacher, Lyman C. Hunt Middle School:** I came today to learn about proficiency-based learning and PLPs and also to share some of my work with English language learners. We talked about language and math and how small words that we might ignore can be very powerful actually.

**Lindsey Halman, Teacher, Essex Middle School:** Having the opportunity just to connect with educators and administrators and youth from across the state really gives me inspiration and new energy to keep pushing my practice.

**Alexandra Bacheller, Teacher, Peoples Academy Middle Level:** Even if I wasn't presenting, I would be here to see what my colleagues are doing. There aren't many opportunities to get together and see what other schools are doing. This is an amazing day to cram it all in. It's overwhelming and very inspiring.

**Kevin Hunt, Teacher, Williston Central School:** This is a group of teachers who are in the trenches talking about what's going on in our daily lives.

**Meg O'Donnell, Teacher, Shelburne Community School:** As a practitioner, for me it was always about getting that shot in the arm, that what are we doing, why are we doing this, what's happening around the state related to middle level, developing connections and relationships with other colleagues.



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**Joe Rivers, Teacher, Brattleboro Area Middle School:** I keep coming back because I think it offers Vermont teachers a real good sense of place around what we're trying to do in Vermont.

**Penny Bishop, Co-Director, Middle Grades Collaborative:** We have teachers working really hard at that. It's so important to be able to bring them together and to share that out and to celebrate that work. There aren't enough opportunities to do that. The more opportunities we can create for that the better.

**James Nagle, Co-Director, Middle Grades Collaborative:** I just say, "ditto."

