



Image: Educators sit at two large round tables with Mary Anne Sheehan of the Vermont Business Roundtable, one of six guest presenters at the WBL Series Kick-Off event.

## Monthly Spotlight: WBL Collaborative Series

During the months of October 2017 and November 2017, nearly 100 Vermont educators met at state-wide and regional meetings to focus on how schools, nonprofit groups and state agencies can support the development and sustainability of Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences, which align with the goals of Education Quality Standards and Act 77.

At the statewide Kickoff session on October 4, participants came energized and ready to get to work. Participants examined and gave feedback on WBL tools, identified topics for future sessions, and engaged in conversation with six different leaders from the Agency of Education, Department of Labor and other organizations that are supporting WBL experiences across Vermont. In addition, Deputy Secretary Heather Boucher shared remarks about “A Vision for Career Readiness in Vermont”.

At the regional sessions on November 9 and 16, participants examined aligning PBGRs with Work-Based Learning experiences with Martha Deiss, Social Studies Specialist, Proficiency-Based Learning Team, and Emily Titterton, Arts Specialist, Proficiency-Based Learning Team; exploring VT AOE’s Open Education Resources with Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator, and Maggie Carerra-Bly, Science Program Coordinator, Proficiency-Based Learning Team; and exchanging information on effective practices. Veronica Newton, Work-Based Learning Program Coordinator, Personalized Learning Team, is leading the WBL Collaborative Series.

## Upcoming VT PLN Opportunities

This spring, the VT PLN will be offering two professional learning series to energize efforts educator practices. Andy Hargreaves will be facilitating a two-day series focused on leveraging collaboration to effect powerful, lasting change in our schools. Allison Zmuda will lead a two-day session focused on creating student-centered learning experiences.

For more information, click on the links below:

[Andy Hargreaves \(April 10, 2018 and June 19, 2018\)](#)

[Allison Zmuda \(May 2 & 3, 2018\)](#)



## Question of the Month

### HOW DO STANDARDS FIT IN A PROFICIENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM?

According to the Vermont Agency of Education, a proficiency is: An “explicit and measurable” description of “transferable skills and standards adopted by the state of Vermont and include explicit, measurable, learning targets aimed at empowering students.” The main difference between standards-based education and proficiency-based education lays in how we manage and describe the skills and knowledge students need to demonstrate in order to be successful in college, career, and as citizens. At its simplest, standards exist within proficiencies, but they are organized in a way that is manageable and meaningful with scaffolded and supported learning along the way.

If you would like to learn more, be sure to explore our Developing and Applying Proficiencies self-paced course, which you can find on the [VT PLN website](#).

## Continuous Improvement Plan

The Agency of Education provides a statewide system of support for continuous improvement, including training and support for applying an improvement science approach to continuous improvement planning, guiding the administration of comprehensive needs assessments and implementing continuous improvement plans, and organizing and managing systems of Networked Improvement Communities in which schools can test and revise improvement theories, as well as share promising practices.

The [Education Quality and Improvement Framework](#) is a comprehensive document that features a synthesis of research, resources for developing a deeper understanding of Vermont’s Education Quality Standards, as well as in-depth support for the continuous improvement process.

Learn more about [Continuous Improvement Plans](#), and be on the lookout for an upcoming self-paced course about Continuous Improvement Plans.

## Vermont Stories

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING IN VT: GREATER THAN THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

One of the important innovations that make up personalized, proficiency-based learning is that teachers are joining together in cross-district collaboratives to provide each other with support, resources, and conversation. This [Vermont Stories video](#) was filmed at the 2017 Middle Grades Collaborative Conference, which brought together approximately 150 teachers and students from across the state. Check out [other Vermont Stories](#) to find resources for using video as a learning tool with your team.

We strive to collect stories from schools and districts as they implement Education Quality Standards across Vermont. If you, your school, or an educator you know would like to take part in the documentation process of capturing these successes, challenges, and strategies please email us at

## We Want to Feature You

Have an awesome photo, story, or resource that you think other Vermont educators would benefit from? Email us at [vtclg@ccebos.org](mailto:vtclg@ccebos.org).

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The Professional Learning Network (VT-PLN) is a statewide system to address the need for a coordinated, cohesive, and consistent approach to professional learning across the state with an emphasis on geographic equity and comparable quality articulated in one specific scope of work.