

# VIRGINIA SCHOOL-UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP VIRGINIA SCHOOL CONSORTIUM for LEARNING VSUP/VaSCL FACT SHEET 2017-2018

**HISTORY AND PURPOSE:** The Virginia School-University Partnership (VSUP) was founded in 1986, when several public school divisions near Charlottesville, Virginia, joined the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), initiated by John Goodlad for the purpose of "simultaneously improving schools and the education of educators." The NNER, which consisted of thirteen partnerships in as many states, was based on the premise that the needed reformation of America's education system could best be facilitated by collaborative organizations of schools and colleges. Over the next thirty years, VSUP worked to build a strong foundation of support and collaboration among its members. The original Virginia Partnership was composed of the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia, eight Central Virginia school divisions, and the District of Columbia Public Schools. In the fall of 2006, VSUP was incorporated as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization to give the organization greater flexibility in its development and provision of services. The Virginia School-University Partnership grew to include more than 60 public school divisions from across the state of Virginia. During the 2016-2017 school year, a Strategic Design Committee was formed to revisit the original mission and vision for VSUP. In May of 2017, the Strategic Design Committee recommended and the Board of Directors voted to alter the bylaws, establishing a new framework for the future, including a name change to The Virginia School Consortium for Learning (VaSCL).

**ORGANIZATION:** The Executive Board is responsible for the overall governance of the organization. The Executive Board is composed of both superintendents (the four VSUP/VaSCL officers and two at-large superintendents) and five representatives of the VSUP/ VaSCL Steering Committee. The superintendents from each member school division meet annually. Meetings feature presentations on topics of interest to the members, such as: the latest educational research, innovative practices, collaborative projects, information from VDOE, potential grant opportunities, and other initiatives. Additionally, meetings provide a forum for professional discussion around topics of individual and group interest. Each member division is also asked to appoint a representative to serve on the Steering Committee of the Professional Development Consortium. The Executive Director works with the Steering Committee members to assess the professional development needs of members and to plan and coordinate workshops and conferences to address those needs. VSUP/VaSCL's operating expenses are paid for by annual membership dues and conference registration fees.

**SERVICES:** A few examples of the services that VSUP/VaSCL provides include: affordable professional development activities and conferences, which are planned for the collective membership; a growing Test and Task Bank with high quality SOL assessment items and Performance Tasks and Rubrics developed by VSUP/VaSCL teachers and curriculum leaders; an annual Student Leadership Conference for high school students; and travel opportunities to learn about educational systems in other countries. In addition, VSUP/VaSCL provides its members with ongoing access to networking with other school divisions for professional support and collaboration regarding current instructional issues and challenges.

**CURRENT MEMBERS:** Albemarle, Alleghany, Amelia, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Buena Vista City, Campbell, Charlottesville City, Chesterfield, Clarke, Colonial Beach Town, Covington City, Culpeper, Cumberland, Danville City, Dinwiddie, Essex, Falls Church City, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Frederick, Fredericksburg City, Goochland, Greene, Greensville, Hanover, Harrisonburg City, Henrico, Hopewell City, King George, King William, Lancaster, Louisa, Lynchburg City, Madison, Manassas City, Manassas Park City, Martinsville City, Mecklenburg, Middlesex, Montgomery, Nelson, Northumberland, Nottoway, Orange, Page, Patrick, Petersburg City, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, Richmond City, Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Salem City, Shenandoah, Stafford, Staunton City, Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice, Washington, Waynesboro City, Westmoreland, Williamsburg/James City County, and Winchester City public school divisions.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE:** The fee for each school division is based on the following dues structure:

- Each school division pays \$800 per 1,000 students ADM.
- No school division pays less than \$1,200 for membership.
- No school division pays more than \$6,000 for membership.