

AdvancED Lead Evaluator Certification Workshop

Lead Evaluator Testimonials

The following participated in the online course work and face-to-face training at the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership/Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals offices in January 2018.

Having served on numerous AdvancED engagement review teams, I benefited on multiple levels - from exposure to innovative ideas and practices to professional development in areas of instruction and leadership. So what's the next step? Becoming an AdvancED Lead Evaluator will avail yourself to the most up-to-date, validated, research-based tools and skill set necessary to effectively evaluate student, teacher and school performance. The online training is user friendly, and the face-to-face encounter puts everything into perspective and ties it all together. I am ready to take the LEAD in this continuous improvement process.



*- Carolyn F. Bernard, VASSP Board Development Committee Chair
Board of Trustees, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Retired Principal, Chesapeake Division*

The AdvancEd Lead Evaluator Training helped me acquire new skills to help our school exceed the Virginia Board of Education's new standards for accrediting public schools. You will quickly discover that the Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool® is a game-changer for improving teacher effectiveness, especially in the areas of instructional planning and delivery.



*- Travis Burns, Ed.D., VASSP Region 3 Director
Principal, Northumberland High School, Northumberland Division*

AdvancED Lead Evaluator Training gave incredible insight on how to build a continuous improvement plan. The training provided the trainees with practical knowledge, as well as an understanding of what to look for in a successful program and what to look for to improve programs. I found the teacher observation in the Effective Learning Environments Observation Tool® to be the most comprehensive method to measure teacher performance I have ever worked with. I intend to have my teachers complete self-observations using eleot®.



*- Douglas Fulton, VASSP President-Elect
Board of Trustees, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Principal, Freedom High School, Loudoun Division*

Taking the AdvancED Lead Evaluator Training was time well spent because it provided me with additional tools to use in my division as I support staff in meeting the goals outlined in each school's annual operating plan. The factors that make up the AdvancED observation criteria are key components of best practices that benefit all students. I have found the information shared and the knowledge gained to be applicable to the schools in my division, regardless of whether the school is undergoing the AdvancED accreditation process. After all, good teaching is good teaching, and good teaching results in positive outcomes for all students!



*- Tameshia V. Grimes, Ph.D., VASSP Principal Awards Committee Chair
Director of Equity & Student Support Services, Chesterfield Division*

Participating in the AdvancED Lead Evaluator training was extraordinary. I learned new ways to collaborate, improve school climate and culture, and most importantly inspire excellence in teaching and learning through quality student engagement. Learning new tools to measure superior instruction has also helped me be a better principal. This educational process is outstanding on so many levels.



*- Carole A. Kihm, VASSP State Coordinator
Principal, Longfellow Middle School, Fairfax County Division*

Powerful and research-based, the AdvancED accreditation process guides meaningful continuous improvement efforts, spurs heightened student engagement, compels substantive professional collaboration, and ultimately enhances the educational experiences of our young people. I have benefited enormously from the invaluable evaluator training, and look forward to engaging in this important work.



*- Brian K. Matney, Ph.D.
Board of Trustees, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Director of Secondary Education, Mecklenburg Division*

While continuous improvement is necessary, it can be a daunting process. The Lead Evaluator Training from AdvancED clearly outlined a unique structure of knowledge and tools constructed from sound research and realistic practices. Following the training, I found myself having an increased awareness and confidence in the process of continuous school improvement, in the strategic use of data, and in the valued involvement of all stakeholders to advance the achievement of each student.



*- Carol C. Robinson, Ed.D., VASSP Field Consultant for Membership Services
Board of Trustees, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Retired Principal, Fairfax County Division*

Concluding Comments

Serving as a lead evaluator in the engagement review process is a worthy endeavor. The AdvancEd Engagement Review process identifies and confirms the key areas of strengths desired in schools for maximum student learning. The process also recommends practices for schools that currently lack focus to better attain school effectiveness. Those principals that are trained as a Lead Evaluator with AdvancEd and serve as the lead evaluator of engagement teams attain experience not only with an understanding of the AdvancEd engagement process, but gain educational experiences that are meaningful to one in the principalship of a school either striving for higher learning expectations and meaningful daily operations, or verifying their school is on a positive path of growth in student learning and achievement.



*- Charles H. Harris, III, Ed.D.
Faculty Member, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Retired Superintendent, Sussex Division*

Up until 1998, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) was the Virginia Board of Education's accrediting agency for Virginia public schools. In 2006, AdvancED was formed with the merger of SACS CASI and the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI). This strong partnership was expanded in 2012 with the inclusion of the Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC). AdvancED, with its combined knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change, has significantly contributed to 34,000 education institutions in the USA and 70 other countries, and has become the world's largest independent school accreditation authority. I encourage Virginia's school leaders to learn more about AdvancED and the tools they have developed for educators to be more effective in school improvement. The lead evaluator training program is open to all educators, and I especially hope school principals and assistant principals will take advantage of it and become an AdvancED Lead Evaluator.



*- Randy D. Barrack, Ed.D., Ph.D., VASSP Executive Director
President, Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership
Member, AdvancED Accreditation Commission*