

VIRGINIA LAB SCHOOLS AND INNOVATION NETWORK

College Partnership Lab School
Standing Committee

February 5, 2024



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

An overview of considerations for the establishment of learning networks of innovation in the Commonwealth, to include lab schools, lab school applicants, and innovative learning options for students across the Commonwealth.

- Desired outcomes
- Potential implementation needs
- Planning and implementation timeline
- Opportunities for engagement and feedback

DESIRED OUTCOMES

As Virginia establishes flexible and innovative programming to better engage students in pathways toward high-demand, high-skill, high-wage careers, provision of resources, support, and opportunities for collaboration across the Commonwealth will be essential to the sustained success of evolving initiatives. Desired outcomes of the innovation network will include:

- Accurate maintenance and sharing of data, to include all division, regional, and state programs representing unique, innovative paths for students.
- Current and dynamic listserv including key staff in all programs to populate regular distribution of resources, research, and targeted networks within the larger group to idea share.
- Creation of advocacy and thought partners across innovative programs to leverage at state, regional, national, and global levels to enhance programming for students.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION NEEDS

- **Human resources:** Dedicated personnel to centrally maintain and administer network, including warehousing and distribution of resources, planning of innovation network virtual and in-person events, and real-time feedback and response to inquiries from current and future programs.
- **Technology:** Evaluation of existing similar networks nationwide and adaptation of best practice to effectively coordinate and administer the innovation network.
- **Funding:** Explore potential avenues of funding to establish and sustain the innovation network and associated workflow.

PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

March 2024: Debut of VDOE Department of Data, Research and Technology visualization and dashboard of existing innovative opportunities across the state.

Summer 2024: Data collection and survey of existing innovative programs to gather feedback and inform next steps.

Fall 2024: Innovation network leadership planning for implementation, to include initial communications and resource sharing

2025: Refine and implement innovation network plans, pursue 3-5 year strategic plan with clear expectations, goals, and objectives developed through feedback from network partners.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK AND ENGAGEMENT

Understanding that the innovation network will include a variety of programs with varied areas of focus and differing scales of operation, thoughtful and deliberate front-end feedback gathering will be key to sustainable success.

- Gather meaningful feedback related to needs of network partners.
- Conduct both survey and focus group engagement with existing programs and potential future partners.
- Create clear paths to share the work of network partners and resources for interested future partners across the Commonwealth.