



Six Schools Selected to Represent Vermont at Regional Conference on Educational Innovation

BARRE, VT – Six Vermont schools—Burlington High School, Cabot School, Harwood Union High School, Montpelier High School, Proctor Junior/Senior High School, and Williamstown Middle/High School—have been invited to represent their state at a regional conference on effective strategies for improving teaching and learning in the 21st century.

The conference, [High School Redesign in Action](#), will take place March 17–18, 2016, in Norwood, Massachusetts. It is sponsored by the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC), a state-led regional partnership committed to high school innovation. All the selected schools have made significant progress raising student achievement, graduation rates, college-enrollment numbers, or other indicators of educational success.

"Vermont continues to be a regional and national leader in promoting and implementing practices that improve students' engagement and career or college readiness," said Dr. Heather Bouchey, Deputy Secretary of Education.

In collaboration with the Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island departments of education, and the Vermont Agency of Education, the presenting schools were selected not only for their exemplary work, but also for their extraordinary commitment to making sure every student has a chance to succeed, to live a fulfilled and meaningful life, and to make a positive contribution to the world in which they live. All six of the honored schools are members of the Consortium's [League of Innovative Schools](#), a multistate network of secondary schools working together to improve their programs and performance. The League's goal is to promote the exchange of best practices and innovative improvement strategies throughout the region.

"The work of these schools on personalization, proficiency- and problem-based learning, and student voice in school transformation showcases the innovative spirit and commitment to high-quality learning experiences that characterize Vermont. We are delighted to see these high schools recognized for their excellent work."

Vermont's High School Redesign in Action Presentations

Supporting High School Teachers and Departments to Put Proficiency-Based Learning into Action

School: Burlington High School, Burlington

Presenters: Tori Cleiland (special educator, Vergennes Union High School) Lindsey Cox (project manager, Burlington-Winooski Partnership for Change), Amy Dickson (teacher learning coordinator, Burlington-Winooski Partnership for Change), Jocelyn Fletcher Scheuch (teacher and PD coordinator, Burlington High School)

Deeper Learning Through Project-Based Learning: Infusing the Arts, Social Action and Personalization

Schools: Cabot School, Cabot

Presenters: Brian Boyes (music educator), Peter Stratman (humanities teacher)

A Call to Leadership: Harnessing the Power of Student Voice in Leading School Improvement

School: Harwood Union High School, Moretown

Presenters: Emma Cosgrove (student), Noah Eckstein (student), Jonah Ibson (teacher), Sam Krotinger (teacher), Cole Lavoie (student), Hazel Macmillan (student), Amy Rex (principal)

The New Skills: Teacher Competencies for Personalized, Proficiency-Based Learning

School: Montpelier High School, Montpelier

Presenters: Michael Martin (director of curriculum), Mike McRaith (principal)

From Passive to Active: Self-Directed Learning in Math and Science Classrooms

School: Proctor Junior/Senior High School, Proctor

Presenters: Alena Digan (science teacher), Reilly Duggan (student), Sarah Marcus (science teacher), Deborah Rodolfy (principal), Adam Rosenberg (director of curriculum & instruction), Patricia Ryan (math teacher), Maxine Tilden (student)

Why Williamstown Students Love to Learn

School: Williamstown Middle/High School, Williamstown

Presenters: Brienna Bassett (student), Svetlanta Bell (student), Bryton Hanchett (student), Taylor Hegarty (student), Desiree Herring (student), Brandon Morande (student), Bryce Quintin (student), Alicia Rominger (learning coordinator), Haley Trottier (student)

Currently, 22 Vermont schools have been inducted into the League of Innovative Schools. Learn more here: <http://newenglandssc.org/league/about-the-league/>.

Background

The NESSC is a regional partnership working to advance forward-thinking innovations in secondary education that will empower the next generation of citizens, workers, and leaders. The Consortium's goal is to ensure that every public high school student receives an education that prepares them for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. The Consortium is funded by the [Nellie Mae Education Foundation](#), the largest philanthropy in New England focused exclusively on education, and it is coordinated by the [Great Schools Partnership](#), a nonprofit educational-support organization in Portland, Maine.

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