

NEA is pleased to tap the considerable experience of our partner, the Center for Teaching Quality (CTQ), in this work.



The Center for Teaching Quality seeks to improve student learning and advance the teaching profession by cultivating teacher leadership, conducting timely research, and crafting smart policy—all in an effort to ensure that every student in America has a qualified, well-supported, and effective teacher. As a small non-profit with big ideas, CTQ is eager to promote a true teaching profession—one designed to serve students, families, and communities. CTQ's research studies and policy development initiatives are designed to help close the teaching quality gap. The organization is also spreading the expertise and elevating the voices of accomplished teachers through its VLC, the Teacher Leaders Network, so that their knowledge of students and schools can inform the next evolution of teaching policies and practices.



Educators are deeply committed to the success of every student. That's why NEA members

across the country are teaming with parents, principals, community organizations and elected leaders through NEA's Priority Schools Campaign, focusing attention on raising student achievement in struggling schools. The work centers on five research-driven elements that lead to permanent systemic change: leveraging community assets, improving staff capacity and effectiveness, developing family and community partnerships, improving district and local association capacity and collaboration, and improving student achievement and learning. NEA is engaged with affiliates at targeted sites across the country developing school-based plans and including some districts and feeder schools.

To participate in a VLC, please complete the contact form:

<http://neapriorityschools.org/virtual-learning-community>



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P R I O R I T Y
S C H O O L S
C A M P A I G N

**NEA's
Priority Schools Campaign
invites you to join our
Virtual Learning Community**

*Reflect and grow in the company of
priority school colleagues from
across the country*



*Explore your practice
in a private, safe,
online community led by
accomplished teacher mentors*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why should I participate in a Virtual Learning Community (VLC)?

Learn from and with colleagues who share a common vision about teaching and learning. Online discussions offer the opportunity to make personal connections, explore areas of interest, and grow in your professional practice. Learning will be embedded in the daily teaching and learning that takes place in your classroom. The community will model effective 21st century tools and strategies. By design, VLCs are flexible, save time, improve your efficiency, and give you quick access to resources and solutions.

“I needed an interactive lesson for my students on improving punctuation use, so I reached out to my VLC. Within several hours, I had three useful lesson plans and ideas shared with me.”
—VLC Participant

2. When would I participate?

The benefit of a VLC is that it provides just-in-time support. The community will be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. You will be able to access the discussion platform whenever is most convenient. Live webinars will also be offered on a monthly basis at a set date and time. Participate as you are able and interested. Archived recordings will be available for those who cannot participate live.

3. Who else will be part of the community?

Teachers from other Priority Schools will comprise your community. You will be joined by trained, virtual coaches whose job is to support your learning. At all times, you will be able to review the backgrounds of your community’s members.

4. Will my principal or parents be able to read what I share online?

The VLC is a private, online space. Only other members of the community will be able to access your posts. At no time will administrators from your school or district (or parents or anyone else) be allowed access—unless access has been previously arranged and agreed upon by all VLC members (that includes you).

5. What will be discussed in the VLC?

You will help select the topics of focus for your online community. We will offer options for overall content, but your interests and needs—along with those of your colleagues—will drive the day-to-day discussions.

6. Who are the virtual coaches?

Accomplished teachers from across the country participated in a series of training webinars over the summer to become better acquainted with facilitating VLCs. The mentors bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience from a range of schools settings—from small rural to large urban schools. Many have achieved National Board Certification or served

as coaches and mentors in their districts. Most important, they bring an excitement and eagerness to guide you in your professional growth.

“I’ve never experienced professional development like I’ve found in my VLC. I love being able to explore issues that are important to me—especially since I can do it in the comfort of my home! Connecting with other teachers all over the country is something that I never thought I’d have the opportunity to do.”

—VLC Participant

7. How will I learn to use the technology?

The virtual coaches and NEA/CTQ staff will be available to support you every step of the way. We will ensure you understand fully what’s needed to participate. With more and more technological tools entering our classrooms, participating in a VLC will give you a competitive, experiential edge in a changing world.

