



# Active Playful Learning FAQ Document

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## Project Description

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**Q:** What is Active Playful Learning (APL)?

**A:** Active Playful Learning (APL) is a pedagogical approach designed to enhance the existing curriculum used by teachers. It is not a standalone curriculum, but rather a method to enrich the educational experience. As a new, nationwide project, APL is a collaboration between the University of Virginia and Loudoun County Public Schools designed to implement and examine an educational model that emphasizes active, engaged, and meaningful learning that is collaborative, iterative, and joyful.

**Q:** How does the program impact my child's classroom experience?

**A:** The APL program aims to make teaching more playful and engaging by supplementing the existing curriculum. There is no additional work required from students; rather, the approach enriches their learning experience with more interactive and enjoyable activities.

**Q:** What is the timeline for the project participation?

**A:** The first APL activity will take place around August 2024 and the last one is expected to be by the end of the 2024-25 school year (May-June 2025).

## Parental Consent and Participation

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**Q:** Why is parental consent required?

**A:** Parental consent is required to ensure that you are informed about the study and its impact on your child. The consent form provides details about the research, including how it will be conducted and how your child's experience will contribute to understanding the effectiveness of APL.

**Q:** Is participation in the study mandatory?

**A:** Participation is entirely voluntary. If you choose to allow your child to participate, their involvement will help us learn more about how APL impacts students and how it might benefit other schools in the future. However, even

if consent is not given, your child will still benefit from the program's enriched resources and activities.

**Q:** What if I want my child to participate in a coaching classroom?

**A:** The study involves two learning pathways—coaching and self-paced training. Both pathways will receive resources and support. The aim is to determine which approach supports the implementation of APL more effectively.

**Q:** What happens if my child's teacher does not participate this year?

**A:** The APL program is designed to be sustainable, with ongoing efforts to support schools even after initial implementation. We have been working with the LCPS central office and other partners to ensure that the benefits of the program can continue to support schools in the future.

## Data Confidentiality

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**Q:** What data will be collected, and how is it used?

**A:** Data collected will be de-identified school records such as attendance and achievement, with no personal information linked to individual students. Teachers will report on skills related to the "portrait of a graduate," focusing on academic and social competencies. All data is aggregated across sites for analysis and confidentiality is strictly maintained.

**Q:** How is confidentiality maintained?

**A:** To ensure confidentiality, all participants are assigned randomly generated ID numbers. Personal identifiers are kept secure and separate from the collected data. The information shared with us does not include private details but rather general demographic and performance data.

## For Schools

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**Q:** What will APL ask schools to do?

**A:** We will ask principals to assist in recruiting teachers at their school to participate in the study. Principals will also be asked to complete a 10-minute survey and to support teacher participation in APL workshops, bi-weekly coaching, and classroom visits.

We ask that teachers assist in the process of distributing consent forms to the parents of the students in their class.

**Q:** What will APL give to teachers?

**A:** All K-4 teachers will be invited to receive free PD that assists them in creating classrooms that promote and sustain learning through opportunities for students to engage in active, meaningful, collaborative, and joyful instruction. They will also have access to APL resources and earn 30 PD credits.

Some teachers will be selected by lottery to also participate in biweekly coaching. These teachers will work closely with an APL coach to implement APL in their classrooms within their existing curriculum and state standards. During the biweekly sessions, the APL coach will visit the classroom to provide support to the teacher for about 1 hour. The visit will be followed by a 30-minute coaching conversation to debrief and plan next steps. APL teachers who participate in coaching will also receive classroom materials to support APL implementation in their individual classrooms and 90 PD credits.

**Q:** What will APL ask of teachers?

**A:** Teachers will be asked to attend APL workshops and complete online surveys regarding their teaching practice and their students' skill set (90 minutes) during the fall and spring. Those teachers chosen by lottery for APL coaching will also participate in biweekly coaching, approximately. Coaching sessions include 60 minutes of classroom time, followed by 30 minutes of reflective conversation. UVA researchers will visit all classrooms 2-3 times throughout the year to observe classroom activities. Note: besides

the time involved in scheduling, the observations by coaches and researchers do not interfere with teachers' work or scheduled activities.

**Q:** What is it like for principals and teachers to participate in APL?

**A:** Please watch this [testimonial video](#) to hear from APL principals and teachers. Please contact us if you would like to speak to our APL coaches and/or meet with principals or teachers from APL schools

## Get Involved

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**Q:** Can I learn more or get involved?

**A:** Yes! We are interested in engaging parents as collaborators. If you would like more information or wish to receive materials related to the program, please let us know. We are also working with local libraries to send additional information home.

If you have further questions or need more details, feel free to reach out at: [APLproject@virginia.edu](mailto:APLproject@virginia.edu)