

# SPARK!

Igniting digital learning through *shared* experience

Teacher Edition



## HOW CAN YOU CREATE (FREE) MEANINGFUL TEACHER-LED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN REAL TIME?

● Meaghan Barber; Director for Low Country Virtual

Pineapple Charts stand out as a cost-effective and profoundly impactful method for facilitating teacher-driven professional development across diverse educational environments. At the heart of this approach lies the transformative power of educators learning from their peers.

Mark Barnes and Jennifer Gonzalez initially highlighted the pineapple chart in their book, *Hacking Education: 10 Quick Fixes for Every School*. In a compelling piece [How Pineapple Charts Revolutionize Professional Development](#) by Jennifer Gonzalez ([Cult of Pedagogy](#)), the concept of opening doors to professional learning is explored in depth.

The author emphasizes the significance of creating a conducive environment for educators to engage in ongoing learning. By highlighting the importance of collaboration, reflection, and embracing new methodologies, Gonzalez underscores the transformative power of professional development.

Additionally, the article accentuates the role of mentorship and peer support in nurturing a culture of learning within educational settings. By acknowledging the expertise and diverse perspectives among educators, Gonzalez advocates for a collaborative approach that fuels innovation and fosters a community of lifelong learners. This presents a compelling argument for the vital role of continuous professional learning in enhancing teaching practices and ultimately benefiting students' educational experiences.

At Low Country Virtual, we've implemented a digital Pineapple Chart within a Google Sheet, facilitating seamless access and exchange among our virtual teaching community. Our approach to introducing the Pineapple Chart was deliberate, involving our teachers in its development to foster a sense of ownership and foster enthusiastic participation. Over the years, we've consistently fine-tuned this platform to ensure its ongoing success in promoting meaningful professional growth among our educators and staff.

Importantly, participation in the Pineapple Chart has always been voluntary, allowing teachers to willingly share their successful classroom strategies, techniques, and tools with their peers. Beyond its function as a sharing platform, our teachers highly value the constructive feedback element, where colleagues provide commendations and constructive suggestions, creating a culture of mutual support and improvement. Let's take a look at some standout aspects of our Pineapple Chart as shared by our teachers:

### 1. User-Friendly Introduction:

The Pineapple Chart's introduction support documents and rollout strategy have made the learning curve incredibly smooth. Teachers found it easy to grasp and sign up without it feeling like an overwhelming addition to their workload.

### 2. Valuable Takeaways:

What's truly remarkable about the Pineapple Chart is the simplicity in gaining valuable insights from colleagues' classrooms. Whether it's innovative landing page concepts or creative breakout room ideas, it serves as an excellent platform for learning from the feedback shared among peers.

### 3. A Refreshing Approach:

Unlike the traditional notion of a 'dreaded observation,' our Pineapple Chart fosters a refreshing environment of teachers willingly sharing insights and expertise with one another. It's a collaborative exchange among educators, free from the pressure associated with formal observations.

## RESOURCES

[Opening the Door to Professional Learning](#) - Edutopia

[Hacking Education: 10 Quick Fixes for Every School](#) by Mark Barnes and Jennifer Gonzalez

[DLC SPARK Digital Resource: Meaningful Teacher Professional Development in Real Time slides](#) with (Resource slide includes digital templates that can be copied + customized)

### Low Country Virtual Pineapple Chart



Meaningful Teacher-Led  
Professional Development in  
Real Time



[Click Here for Slides](#)

[Click Here for Video](#)

## TRADE SECRETS

- **Keep it voluntary**
- **Allow teachers to help create what this looks like within your school**
- **Skip the documentation. This is never intended to be used as a formal observation**
- **Start with the bold and the brave**
- **Sell it! Celebrate all efforts**

## MEAGHAN BARBER



Meaghan Barber is an exceptional leader and is currently the Director for Low Country Virtual. With a genuine passion for online learning, Meaghan's expertise lies in student engagement, curriculum and course design, and captivating multimedia creations. She has an unwavering commitment to fostering creativity within the virtual classroom and continuously inspires others to embrace new educational challenges.