



# PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2025



## OUR MISSION

To expand and foster learner-centered education approaches and systems.

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 Falls Church, VA

# ABOUT US

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## EDUCATION IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD

We are a diverse group of professionals who are deeply engaged in an ongoing and seemingly endless dialogue about the future of education. We're exploring questions such as:

**Is education evolving to meet the changing needs of learners? o  
Could an education revolution be on the horizon, and if so, will it  
ever conclude?**

COULD AN  
EDUCATION REVOLUTION  
BE ON THE HORIZON?



# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



## MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING



Over these three years, we formalized key **Memorandums of Understanding** with:



- the Arizona College of Nursing
- Duke University's BOOST program
- ISchool for the Future
- WEquil group
- CARE Education Foundation



**Each partnership reflects our commitment to connecting learners with innovative approaches — whether in healthcare, university outreach, entrepreneurial learning, community resource-sharing, or future-oriented educational design.**



These partnerships also positioned us as a recognized participant in the wider learner-centered education movement. Our relationship with **Education Reimagined** brought us into direct dialogue with other ecosystems across the country. Our efforts in Falls Church were acknowledged through an invitation to join the **Northern Virginia STEM Learning Ecosystem**, led by **Virginia Tech**, as a partner and advisory board member.

# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS



## CARE EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The partnership with **CARE Education Foundation** has been particularly significant locally, as together we launched the Library of Things in Alexandria.

While based there, the Library reaches the vicinity of Falls Church residents too, offering access to shared resources and extending the vision of communities as learning ecosystems.



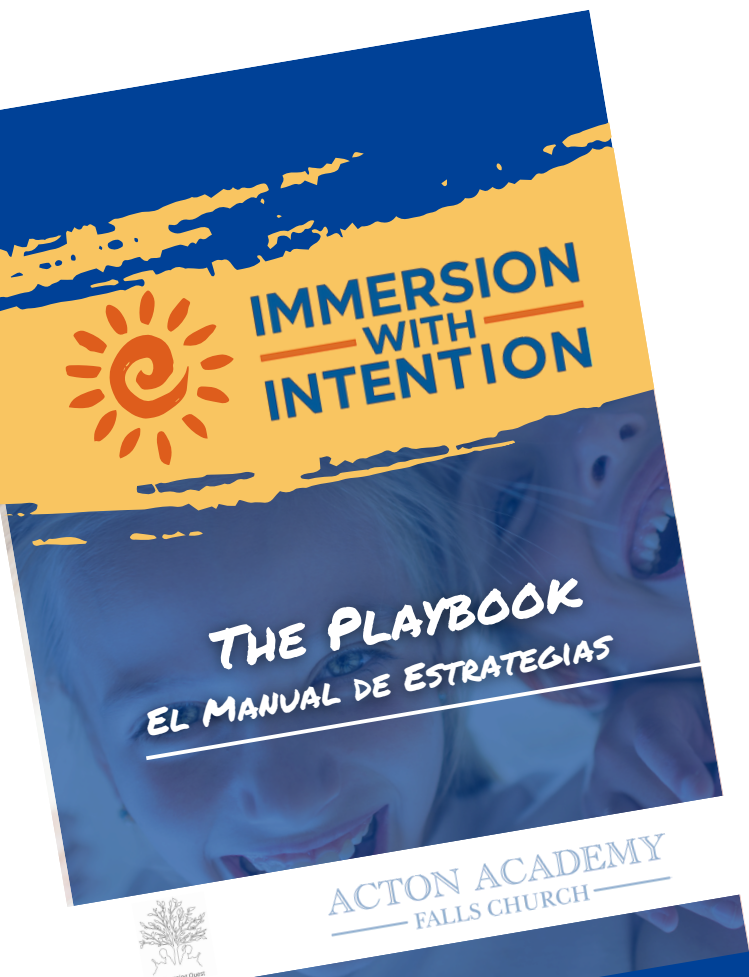
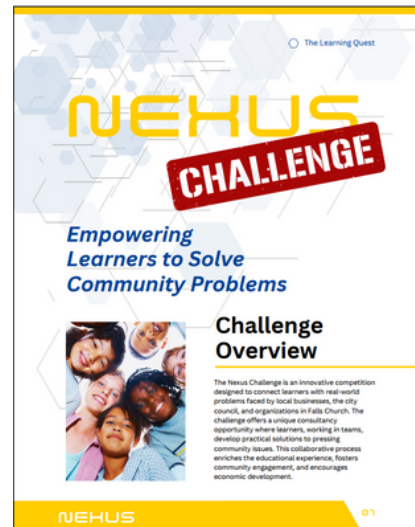


# PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES



## NEXUS CHALLENGE

We developed and published two playbooks that capture the spirit and practice of our work. The **Nexus Challenge Playbook** serves as a guide for schools and organizations interested in connecting student learning with real-world challenges presented by businesses, civic bodies, and community partners.



## SPANISH IMMERSION PLAYBOOK

In parallel, the **Spanish Immersion Playbook** offers practical tools for implementing bilingual, learner-centered environments. Accompanied by video resources and shared across platforms, these publications have become a way of extending our reach beyond Falls Church, providing other educators with tangible pathways to re-imagine learning.

# BUILDING A LEARNING ECOSYSTEM IN FALLS CHURCH

Much of our energy has been devoted to creating experiences that allow Falls Church residents to live out the idea that learning happens everywhere. We have worked deliberately to “connect the dots” through events that are playful, community-driven, and hands-on.



## TEDDY BEAR FIX-IT CLINIC

The **Teddy Bear Fix-It Clinics**, first held in Mr. Brown’s Park with the Toy Nest and later at the Farmers Market, have become a signature expression of our philosophy. Families brought their children and their much-loved stuffed animals, which were repaired in a setting that celebrated care, creativity, and intergenerational learning. Importantly, the **Teddy Bear Clinics** garnered endorsement from local businesses and organizations, whose support underscored the value of this initiative as both a joyful community activity and a model of learning beyond the classroom.



# BUILDING A LEARNING ECOSYSTEM IN FALLS CHURCH



## TOOL LENDING LIBRARY (UPCOMING)

On 4 October 2025 we took part in the **City of Falls Church's Recycling Extravaganza**. On that day, residents were invited to donate tools to help seed the future **Tool Lending Library**, a project that will be based at the Willston Community Center in Seven Corners, just minutes from Falls Church. This effort is intentionally community-driven, starting from the bottom up with residents contributing the first set of tools.



## REPAIR CAFE



### REPAIR CAFE FAIRFAX

We have also proposed to the **Senior Center of Falls Church City** a survey among its members to learn more about their trades and expertise to host their own Repair Cafe. In the meantime, we are working together with **Repair Cafe Fairfax** in its monthly repair gathering.



# BUILDING A LEARNING ECOSYSTEM IN FALLS CHURCH



## INTERNATIONAL REPAIR DAY

By the autumn of 2025, the City Council accepted **our proposed proclamation of endorsing International Repair Day** — a civic milestone that connected grassroots events with city-level recognition. We are working on doing this every year with nearby cities and councils.





# BUILDING A LEARNING ECOSYSTEM IN FALLS CHURCH



## THE EDUCATION PASSPORT

One of our new initiatives is the **Education Passport**. This project is designed to document and celebrate learning wherever it happens — in schools, libraries, workshops, city parks, or community events. Each “**stamp**” in the passport recognizes participation in a meaningful learning experience, whether that is fixing a bike, presenting at a student challenge, or contributing at a Repair Café.

The Passport not only makes visible the idea that the entire community is a place of learning but also empowers learners to see their growth as a continuous journey across different contexts. We envision the Passport becoming a core element of the **Falls Church Learning Ecosystem**, encouraging residents to seek out new opportunities, make connections, and take pride in their learning journey.

The key is the co-design of the initiative, so we are proposing that we build it together with the community and stakeholders. This may take more time, but it's the only way to do it.



## Education Passport





# SPANISH IMMERSION LEADERSHIP



## IMMERSION WITH INTENTION

Alongside local initiatives, our **Spanish Immersion** work has gained recognition on regional and national stages. In 2025, we presented at the **University of Maryland's Dual Language Educator Conference**, followed by a practice-oriented paper accepted at the **ACTFL conference in New Orleans**. Looking ahead, our program has already been selected for presentation at the **NABE conference in Chicago** in 2026. These opportunities highlight **The Learning Quest** and its partnership with **Acton Academy Falls Church** as a reference point in the field of bilingual and immersion education, aligning cultural competency with learner-centered pedagogy.



# COMMUNICATIONS & VISIBILITY



## SHARING STORIES

Our growing communication efforts have played a key role in expanding reach and awareness. Through consistent presence on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#), we have shared stories of our initiatives, from the joy of a child receiving back a repaired teddy bear to the unveiling of our playbooks. The local press has also highlighted our work, with coverage in the [Falls Church Independent](#) and recognition in business-oriented features like [Spotlight Falls Church](#).



# CHALLENGES & GROWTH



We are expanding our work and our presence, not without challenges. We have applied for grants and will continue to do so while we work on expanding our public relations. We have applied to the **Business in Education Initiative**. ED **Belén Quellet** is a board member of the **Board of the Falls Church Chamber of Commerce** and has joined the **Alexandria Chamber of Commerce**. She has also joined **Falls Church Forward as an Ambassador** to welcome new residents to the city. We see this as groundwork for the next stage of growth, where we aim to increase our networking and develop a more comprehensive grant strategy and, importantly, garner support for our **Scholarship Fund** to ensure equitable access for learners regardless of background.

# LOOKING AHEAD

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## STRONG FOUNDATIONS

**As we close this chapter, The Learning Quest stands on strong foundations.**

We have:

- **Built partnerships** with universities, national networks, and local foundations.
- **Published resources** that capture and share our innovations.
- **Brought learning** into parks, markets, libraries, and city council meetings.
- **Positioned Falls Church** as a city where curiosity and community drive education.



Looking forward, we will focus on three priorities: launching the **Tool Lending Library at Willston Community Center** (hopefully), expanding the **Spanish Immersion program's national leadership**, and creating the **Scholarship Fund**. The **Education Passport** will serve as a unifying tool across these strands, giving learners a way to track and celebrate their growth in the ecosystem.



# THANK YOU

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