Book & Technology Recommendations from Aspire Public School's Improvement Team As mentioned in the webinar "How Central Offices Can Get Better with Structured Continuous Improvement"



We have adopted so many practices from this book, including the idea of minimum viable product. It is a must-read for anyone working on improvement projects.



Studying Margaret Wheatley has had a huge impact on our organization. The above and below the green line concept that we talked about in the webinar comes from her.



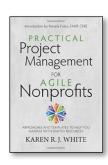
This book has now become a classic, but it is one that we reach for over and over. We strive to be a great organization and this is a touchstone book for us.



A super quick read, this book will introduce you to the Agile approach to technology development. We apply this practice to all our projects, not just technology projects.



Project management used to be a dirty word at Aspire and this book helped us learn to embrace it. It makes a distinction between project management and project leadership.



This is another of our favorite books on project management. We especially like the second half of the book, which outlines project management concepts in an easy to understand way and has great templates.



www.microsoft.com

We use Microsoft Visio to create process maps, flowcharts and wireframes. Process maps help us understand the current process and find inefficiencies.



www.lucidchart.com

Our colleague from the Central Office Project recommended this Visio alternative. It is online, facilitates live collaboration and works for Mac.



www.balsamiq.com

If you are going to work iteratively, you need a way to create a quick prototype. We use a tool called Balsamiq (free for school districts & non-profits!) to create clickable mockups.