

Poquoson City Public Schools



Curriculum & Instruction Updates, Educational Resources, Professional Learning Opportunities, and More

September 9, 2022, Vol. 2, Issue 2

A person who never made a mistake, never tried anything new. – Albert Einstein

COVID-19 Updated Guidance from Virginia Department of Health and Healthy Back-to-School Campaign

UPDATED COVID GUIDANCE

While the isolation and quarantine guidance is posted to the PCPS website, it is also being provided here for ease of access.

On August 25th, the VDH K-12 Testing Team held a **Back-to-School session** to review updated guidance and testing resources for schools. Schools are invited to view and share the [slide deck](#) and [recording](#) of the session.

Please note that VDH has updated the [Interim COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for K-12 schools](#) as of August 22nd, 2022. Test to Stay is no longer routinely recommended for K-12 schools.

HEALTHY BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

VDH and the VDOE have partnered to create a new and improved Back-to-School campaign for the new school year! Parents and caregivers are encouraged to visit the VDH [Back To School Webpage](#) to find information on routine childhood immunizations, doctor and dental visits, COVID-19 vaccines for kids, and more.

New English and Spanish language social media assets for schools are available on the: [VDH Communications Hub for Children, Parents and Schools](#).

LOOKING FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL VACCINATION CLINICS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

Visit the [VA Healthy Events Webpage](#) to locate Local Health District events in your community that are offering school-required vaccinations and COVID-19 vaccines.

Curriculum & Instruction

VDOE English Learner Instruction Insights

What's New? (News and Announcements)

National Hispanic Heritage Month

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place from September 15 to October 15 every year **as a time to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Latino community.** Beginning in 1968, Hispanic Heritage Month was originally observed as “Hispanic Heritage Week” under President Lyndon Johnson, but it was later extended to a month during President Ronald Reagan’s term in 1988. – [White House Hispanic Prosperity Initiative](#), Dept. of Education Elisabeth Alvarado shares information, resources, and activities in [The Ultimate Guide to Hispanic Heritage Month](#).

Resources and Opportunities

Resources

The [WIDA Family Engagement Guide](#) and the [English Learner Family Toolkit](#) provide resources to support the efforts of educators to build relationships and make connections with families.

[ELL 2.0 Translation Tool](#) is a free resource that provides students access to first language support encouraging communication in the early days and weeks of school.

Looking for example lesson plans built around the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition? Check out [#GoOpenVa ESL](#).

Sign up for the [Switchboard](#) newsletter for ideas on how to support refugee youth as they start back to school. Want a quick synopsis of what you need to know to assess, teach and grow with WIDA this school year? Check out this [back-to-school guide](#)!

In a new article, Samuel Aguirre, WIDA Español Director, provides tips for education administrators to incorporate former English learners in the review of data that inform goals and programming outcomes for bi/multilingual students. Read [Using active and former English learner data when creating a balanced picture of bi/multilingual students](#) (in English y en español) on the WIDA website.

Opportunities

WIDA Screener for Kindergarten (webinar) will be offered for FREE on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Register here](#) to attend.

WIDA Screener Online (webinar) will be offered for FREE on Thursday, September 8, 2022 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. [Register here](#) to attend.

WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition Session 1 is an introduction to the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition designed to support educators as they begin to unpack the various components of the new standards. [Register here](#) to join this professional learning opportunity which will be held virtually on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition Session 2 is a deeper dive into the WIDA ELD Standards Framework, 2020 edition and is designed to take educators further in their understanding and implementation

of the new standards. [Register here](#) to join this professional learning opportunity which will be held virtually on Thursday, September 22, 2022 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00p.m.

WIDA presents **Writing with Multilingual Learners in the Secondary Grades**. Attend this **FREE** two day in-person workshop on September 20, 2022 & 21, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Northside Library in Charlottesville. [Register Here](#)

Attention EL Educators: The Virginia ESL Supervisors Association (VESA) is proud to announce the **2022-2023 Conference Call for Proposals**. This year's conference theme is "Multilingual Learners: Bearers of Untapped Cultural Wealth." The conference will feature sessions related to evidenced-based practices in supporting our diverse English Learners with the goal of ensuring college and career readiness. Conference sessions will also include a focus on strategies for developing academic literacy and language in the content areas, vocabulary instruction for ELs, and support for our specialized populations of ELs. **Proposals are due Friday, November 4th, 2022.**

The conference will be held Thursday, February 2, 2023 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, February 3, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel located at 425 Water St, Portsmouth, VA 23704.

Please submit Conference Proposals to: [VESA 2022 2023 Conference Presentation Proposal](#)

Content Connections

[Rehearsal Strategies for Engaging English Learners in Music:](#) Dr. Angela Ammerman shares rehearsal strategies specifically geared toward English Learners (ELs). Learn about resources and strategies to provide language support and engage English Learners in the music classroom. Check out the [Zoom Recording!](#)

VDOE: Virginia Literacy Act (VLA) – What to Expect When and How to Get Involved

On September 8, 2022, our State Superintendent, Jillion Balow, led a webinar during which she provided a rationale as to the need for the VLA, provided an overview of the VLA, defined what success looks like, walked through the timeline, and identified opportunities for VLA engagement.

My notes from the webinar are as follows:

Overall K-2 Literacy Results

Current Data: Recent Virginia data reveals concerning trends in literacy with historically high numbers of K-2 students at risk of reading difficulties. Spring 2022 percentage of K-2 students scoring **below benchmark (29%)**. **74% of K-2 students fall in the high-risk and medium-risk groups for reading difficulties.** *Only 26% are considered low-risk.*

Grade 3 Reading SOL Trends. The third grade passage rate on the Reading SOL has continued to fall over the last decade and has dropped to historic lows during the pandemic. These trends were in place well before the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, NAEP reading scores in Virginia took their largest dive since 1998. 4th graders from sub-groups in Virginia have fares worse compared to their white peers.

Why Early Literacy Matters

- Third grade is the final year children are learning to read, rather than “reading to learn.” If they are not proficient readers when they begin fourth grade, as much as half of curriculum will be incomprehensible.
- Three quarters of students who are poor reading in third grade will remain poor readers in high school; data shows they are more likely to have social and behavioral problems to be retained.
- Students who are not proficient in reading by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than proficient readers.
- Low achievement in reading has long-term consequences for individual learning potential, global competitiveness, and general productivity.

Overview of the VLA

The VLA is a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach for ensuring evidence-based literacy instruction is implemented in all K-3 classrooms.

- House Bill 319 (Coyner) and Senate Bill 616 (Lucas), both known as the Virginia Literacy Act, passed unanimously out of the 2022 General Assembly.
- There is state funding to address the costs of these new initiatives.
- VLA provisions become effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.
- Delegate Delaney’s HB418 and HB419 are both complements to the Act and address the allowable uses of Early Intervention Reading Initiative funds as well as the audit and approval of educator preparation programs.

How the VLA will improve literacy. Virginia is taking the lead nationwide to reverse these trends and improve early literacy outcomes for the Commonwealth’s youngest learners.

- Based upon Science-Based Reading Research and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction
- 4 threads: Prepare teachers, align curricula, screening & intervention methods, require continuing professional development, and partner with families

Key Components of the VLA

Defines Key Terms.

- Establishes the definition of evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading instruction.

Aligns Curricula, Screening, and Intervention Methods.

- Requires both the instructional and intervention programs in grades K-3 be aligned with science-based reading research, as set out in a division-wide literacy plan.
- Maintains the current screening model to identify students in need of intervention, and requires the development of reading plans for students below the benchmark.
- Adds a division-wide staffing ratio of one reading specialist per 550 students in K-3. Prior to July 1, the staffing was at the discretion of the local school division.

Requires Continuing Professional Development and Training.

- Requires principals and certain teachers be provided with professional development in science-based reading research and evidence-based literacy instruction.

Partners with Families.

- Ensures parents are engaged in the development of student reading plans and have access to resources to support literacy at home.

Aligns Educator Preparation and Licensure

- Requires certain educator preparation programs to ensure candidates have a program of coursework and demonstrate mastery in Science-Based Reading Research and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction

- Stipulates that the literacy assessment for licensure with certain endorsements include a test of Sb reading research and EB literacy instruction
- Requires every person seeking initial licensure with certain endorsements complete study in Science-Based Reading Research and Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction
- Establishes a micro-credential programs for earning an add-on reading specialist endorsement (when needed).

Big Picture: What Success Looks Like

Every K-3 student

- Receives core literacy instruction from an evidence-based literacy curriculum for the entire literacy block.
- Receives additional evidence-based instruction and intervention, as outlined in a student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.

Every K-3 teacher....

- Uses evidence-based literacy curriculum for the entire literacy block
- Assesses student learning using approved literacy screeners routinely throughout the year
- Uses student-level data to inform both whole group instruction and individualized instruction and intervention
- Participates in pre-service preparation and/or in-service training in evidence-based literacy instruction

Every K-3 Reading Specialist....

- Coordinates intervention services for students not meeting literacy benchmarks
- Develops, oversees implementation of, and monitors student progress on student reading plans, in collaboration with teachers and families

Every School Division....

- Develops a division-wide literacy plan
- Ensures all K-3 teachers have and use evidence-based literacy curriculum
- Staffs at least one reading specialist for every 550 students in K-3
- Provides professional development in evidence-based literacy instruction to teachers, reading specialists, and principals
- Receives coaching and support from regional literacy coaches

Every Family of a K-3 Student....

- Has access to free online evidence-based literacy instruction resources to support their child's literacy development at home AND
- Can participate in the development of their child's student reading plan, if they do not meet literacy benchmarks.

Every K-3 Educator Preparation Program requires aspiring teachers and reading specialists to complete coursework in and demonstrate a mastery of evidence-based literacy instruction.

VLA = Comprehensive Tools and Supports for All

Working together we can improve literacy for all students in Virginia

- Policy makers, partners, division leaders, reading specialists, teachers, families, students, and higher education

Timeline: What to Expect in 2022-2023

Key Activities for the VDOE in 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, the VDOE will support school divisions to prepare for VLA implementation by:

- Building and running a process to identify best-in-class literacy instructional materials and professional development providers
- Developing guidelines and tools for supporting students who have not yet met reading benchmarks using a specific reading plan
- Providing statewide training for reading specialists, beginning in Summer 2023
- Developing guidance and tools for divisions to build their literacy plans

Key Activities for Divisions in 2022-2023

In 2022-2023, school divisions can prepare by:

- Reviewing the approved K-3 curriculum and instructional materials and choose the best option(s) based on the individual school division needs
- Evaluating which students are not yet meeting reading benchmarks, introduce the concept of using student specific reading plans and begin planning for implementation of reading plans
- Calculating reading specialist ratios and adding staff if needed
- Ensuring that appropriate staff can participate in statewide training beginning in Summer 2023
- Beginning to build literacy plans

After 2022-2023

In 2023-2024, the VDOE and divisions will take additional steps to prepare for full implementation of the VLA.

- There will be a second process to identify best-in-class literacy instructional materials focused on supplemental and intervention materials
- VDOE will release a calendar of annual VLA data collection and reporting, along with sample templates and divisions will begin submitting data
- Statewide training options in evidence-based literacy instruction and science-based reading research will be available for teachers and principals, beginning Summer 2024
- Educator preparation programs will begin to institute these shifts and provide additional information and technical support.

Implementing the VLA successfully will require building partnerships, securing buy-in and ensuring the perspectives of leaders, educators, experts and families are fully included.

- Continue to check out the VDOE website for resources and new information.
- Participate in Virginia's New Literacy Screener Pilot. Reach out to UVA if you or your school division is interested in participating at literacy@virginia.edu
- Apply for the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group. Application will be made available by October 1 via Superintendent Memo
- Be prepared for additional information and guidance to be provided via Superintendent Memos, newsletters, in-person meetings and webinars. Additional updates will be shared on the Virginia Literacy Act webpage.

WHRO Spelling Bee Informational Webinar

Flyer Link:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAFK0gAUGgY/4XJbbL8hQGmjhhbDjXNMmg/view?utm_content=DAFK0gAUGgY&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink

There are many [other types of aggressive behavior](#) that don't fit the definition of bullying. This does not mean that they are any less serious or require less attention than bullying. Rather, these behaviors require different prevention and response strategies.

National Bullying Prevention Month

Beginning in October 2006, [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center](#), along with the [National Education Association](#), [National PTA](#), [American Federation for Teachers](#), and the National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education, hosted the first awareness week sponsoring events and activities to raise awareness of the issue of bullying throughout the month. PACER realized that students, parents, and people throughout the country needed to become more aware of the serious [consequences of bullying](#). The point of National Bullying Prevention Month was to transform a society that accepts bullying into a society that recognizes that bullying must – and can – be addressed through education and support.

There are various events in October in which you can get involved to help prevent and raise awareness about bullying:

- [Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying](#), on October 6, encourages communities to stage events to show support against bullying. This year, organizations from Las Vegas, Nevada to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and from Jonesboro, Arkansas to San Diego, California are staging Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying events to raise awareness in their communities.
- Unity Day, on October 10, is a time when people across the country wear orange as a show of support for students who have been bullied. Ellen DeGeneres wore orange on her TV show during last year's Unity Day.
- Youth can enter the Stop Bullying Video Challenge: Encourage the youth in your life to submit original PSAs, 30 to 60 seconds in length, that showcase ways they are taking action against bullying and promoting a culture of kindness and respect in their communities. The deadline for submission is **October 14**, and the top prize is \$2,000. Full details about the contest, including submission guidelines and rules for eligibility are available at stopbullying.challenge.gov.

With all of these new resources and attention, it is a great time to consider how you can help raise awareness about bullying and take action to stop it. Tell us what you are going to do by engaging on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Additional Federal Resources:

- The Office of Adolescent Health, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has [resources](#) on healthy relationships in adolescence, including how adolescents and those who care about them can help prevent or stop bullying.
- [StopBullying.gov](#), a special initiative from the Department of Health and Human Services, provides information and resources from government agencies on how to [prevent](#), [respond](#), and take action against bullying.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Striving To Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere \(STRYVE\)](#) initiative provides communities with the knowledge and resources to prevent youth violence, including bullying.

VSBA Bullying Prevention Information and Resources

The VSBA Board of Directors has designated October as VSBA Bullying Prevention Month to promote awareness of school bullying. Childhood bullying is a significant problem nationwide and can contribute to increases in school absenteeism, mental and physical stress, poor school performance, low self-esteem, and in some cases, school violence. Statistics show that students who experience bullying are at an increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school. School board

members, superintendents, school leaders, teachers, and parents play a critical role in creating a climate where bullying is not tolerated. It has been proven when adults and children stand together, bullying ends. Bullying Prevention Month is a great time to consider how you can help raise awareness about bullying and take action to stop it.

Below are two links to a packet of information to help prepare for VSBA Bullying Prevention Month, including a proclamation adopted by the VSBA Board of Directors and a PSA on bullying prevention from VSBA President Teddy D. Martin II.

[Click Here to view the Bullying Prevention Month Toolkit](#)

[Click Here to watch the video message from VSBA President Teddy D. Martin, II](#)

Education Resources

VDOE Teacher Direct Newsletter: Headlines

Virginia Free Meals for Students

Virginia is expanding eligibility for free meals during the 2022-2023 school year through funding provided by the General Assembly in the state budget. Students with families at or below 185% of the federal poverty level are eligible for free meals. Families can reach out to their local school nutrition department with questions related to the free meal application form. See more from [VDOE](#)!

VCMS First Timers Grant- Due September 1

The Virginia Council for Mathematics Supervision is excited to announce two new grants being sponsored by Dr. Stuart Flanagan. The First Timers Grant is aimed to encourage division mathematics leaders who have not previously attended the VCMS Fall Conference to join us in person! [Applications](#) are available now and are due no later than September 1.

Virtual VA - Canvas Certified Educator Program-Due September 2

Are you interested in furthering your “technopedagogy” with Canvas? Virtual Virginia is offering, at no cost, in the Canvas Certified Educator (CCE) Program with an October cohort led by Lizzy Rodriguez and Dave Dick. Participants in the CCE cohort also agree to share their learning by presenting best practices in blended learning pedagogy during the 2022-23 school year. If you wonder if the CCE is right for you, take the [self-assessment](#) and visit the [website](#) to learn more. If this path of learning and time requirement are for you, then complete the [interest form](#). Accepted applicants will be notified in early September.

U.S. Department of Education 9/11 Materials for Teachers

As the anniversary of September 11, 2001 approaches, some informational resources that may be useful in planning educational activities in remembrance of September 11. Resources that may be useful are listed on the U.S. Department of Education’s [9/11 Materials for Teachers](#). School divisions may consider these as they determine what kind of instructional programs are appropriate for their students.

September VDOE Fine Arts Update-9/14

On September 14, the VDOE Fine Arts Coordinator will be joined by state arts education partners to share up-to-date information and resources for the 2022-2023 school year. The virtual session is intended for division-level leaders of fine arts curriculum, instruction, and professional learning and is open to all fine arts educators who

wish to attend. The session will be recorded. A Q&A session will be held after the recorded update. [Registration](#) is required.

Constitution Day is September 17

In recognition of Constitution Day on September 17, 2022 [resources and materials](#) are available from the U.S. Department of Education for school divisions to consider when developing an instructional program for their students. Congress passed legislation that requires the implementation of an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution, on a date designated by statute officially as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day.

Virtual VA & Canvas Webinars: Educators can participate in training sessions each week via Canvas's Training Services Portal (TSP). To find any of the sessions listed below, first make sure you are logged into your Canvas account. The upcoming hour-long sessions are appropriate for Division and School Leaders, Statewide LMS Admin, K-12 Instructors, and Support.

Upcoming Virtual Virginia/Canvas webinars include:

- 9/1 at 2 p.m.: [Register](#) How to Access & Use SOL-Aligned Content in Commons
- 9/1 at 4 p.m.: [Register](#) Using Google Tools for Pages & Discussions
- 9/7 at 2 p.m.: [Register](#) Building Better PD: School & Division Leaders

Upcoming Canvas webinars can be accessed via [TSP](#):

- 9/2 at 9 a.m.: Outcomes & Rubrics for Instructors
- 9/6 at 9 a.m.: Accessibility
- 9/6 at 3:30 p.m.: Elementary Dashboard for Teachers
- 9/8 at 10:30 a.m.: Set Up for Graded Content
- 9/9 at noon: Course Design Considerations

VDOE Fall 2022 Cohort Journey into Teaching Academy

This is a yearlong professional development initiative for teachers completing their second year of teaching at the end of the 2021-2022 school year and entering their third year of teaching during the 2022-2023 SY as a provisionally licensed special education teacher. The Academy provides teacher support beyond mentorship in an effort to enhance the retention, as well as the overall performance of provisionally licensed special education teachers. Completed applications and recommendations are due to the VDOE by September 23. See [Superintendent's Memo 163-22](#) for details.

Webinar: Fine Arts Career Awareness and Workplace Readiness Resources

On September 28 from 3:30-4:15 p.m., the VDOE Fine Arts Coordinator will share numerous resources and strategies for incorporating career awareness and workplace readiness into curricula for dance, music, theatre, and visual arts education. A certificate of participation will be issued to those who attend the live session and complete the exit survey and reflection. The session will be recorded. [Register](#) to attend.

VCMS Fall Conference

The Virginia Council for Mathematics Supervision will host its Fall Conference October 13-14, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Richmond-Midlothian. Kevin Dykema, NCTM's President-Elect, will serve as the featured speaker. Dykema is the co-author of Productive Math Struggle: A 6-Point Action Plan For Fostering Perseverance. To register and view the full agenda for the Conference, please visit the [VCMS website](#).

SVWP Write to Learn Conference

The 8th Annual Write-to-Learn Conference will be held on September 17 on the campus of Shenandoah University from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Keynote will feature Social Emotional Learning and Literacy with Deidre

Farmbry, a CASEL Senior District Advisor, career educator, and board member of the National Writing Project. Breakout sessions will be led by SVWP Teacher Consultants. Find out more information or register [today!](#)

Experience Works 2022—Trailblazing Together Resources

A live virtual professional development opportunity for High-Quality Work-Based Learning stakeholders, “Experience Works—Trailblazing Together for High-Quality Work-Based Learning,” was conducted virtually on June 22-23, 2022. Work-Based Learning coordinators, Career and Technical Education teachers, administrators, school counselors, career coaches, and business and industry leaders attended this informative event. If you missed it, [view](#) the recorded sessions and exhibitor videos, which could be a valuable resources. For more information, visit the High-Quality Work-Based Learning [webpage](#).

CHOICE Program

Virginia Ed Strategies is currently seeking high school math, science, computer science, and CTE teachers to join [CHOICE](#), an exciting program that empowers teachers, provides them with \$1500 per year to self-select professional learning aligned to their goals, and feel support from an online community of peers and resources statewide. There is no cost to teachers or schools to participate, and teachers have autonomy relative to engagement in program activities to fit their unique needs. Complete an [interest form](#) and [learn](#) more today.

VDOE Science Teacher Webinars

These Webinars are opportunities for Virginia science educators to hear directly from the VDOE Science Team and will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. starting September 21. The topic of the September Teacher Webinar is **Safety and the Science and Engineering Practices**. Future topics include Supporting English Learners in Science (October), Using the Common Rubric with Science Performance Assessments (November), and Developing Science Literacy (January). Consider [registering](#) for any or all of the VDOE Science Teacher Webinars today!

VDOE Presentations for Teachers

[Recorded presentations](#) for teachers are available on the Growth Assessments page on the VDOE website. The recordings currently posted on this webpage describe a method for using Standards of Learning assessment data to inform instruction, assist in using the Student Detail by Question data extract file, and provide an overview of the Grades 3-8 Reading and Mathematics Growth Assessments for the 2022-2023 school year and beyond. Check them out today!

Virginia General Assembly House and Senate Page Program

The application for admission to the Senate Page Program class of 2023 is now available. The Senate Clerk's Office staff will confirm receipt of applications within three business days. [Applications](#) are due by 5 p.m. October 17. Make every attempt to avoid a last-minute submission. There is not an online application process this year.

National Space Design Competition

This Competition is accepting registration from teams of students across the country to solve orbit determination, satellite component planning, and launch vehicle selection scenarios presented in a series of online rounds. These are real-world space design challenges. All training, mentoring, and software needed for success are provided. Each team requires an adult leader (typically a teacher) and 2-6 students. A fee of \$200 is waived for Title I schools and JROTC teams. [Deadline](#) to register is October 17.

VIRGINIA COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

Online M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction. New Areas of Emphasis Enjoy the flexibility of a fully online program with the University of Virginia while exploring one of ten areas of emphasis. The Professional Studies

emphasis will provide provisionally licensed teachers an opportunity to complete required licensure coursework required by the VDOE while earning a master's degree. [Register](#) and attend the virtual information session on September 12 at 7:30 p.m. Contact [Anne Jewett](#) with any questions.

Graduate Program Information Sessions. [Join](#) Radford University School of Teacher Education and Leadership at 4:00PM the first Wednesday of each month this fall for a virtual information session. Graduate Program Coordinators will be in breakout rooms to discuss the following 100% online programs: Curriculum and Instruction (M.S.); Mathematics Ed (M.S. & Certificate); Ed Leadership (M.S.); Literacy Ed (M.S. & Certificate); Special Ed (M.S.), Education (Ed.D.) Reduced tuition rate for Virginia educators and some grant opportunities are available.

Career & Technical Education M.S. Professional Development Program. The CTE program at Virginia Tech will offer EDCT 5604 Foundations of CTE and EDCT 5784 Student Assessment in Workforce Development for their Master's of Science in Ed Professional Development program. The online [classes](#) are offered in evenings both synchronous and asynchronous and may count for provisional licensure for degree or non-degree-seeking students. Virginia teachers may receive a 25% tuition discount. Contact [Dr. Natalie Ferand](#) with questions.

M.Ed program in Administration & Supervision. The University of Virginia M.Ed program in Administration & Supervision prepares the next generation of educational leaders in school districts across Virginia. This synchronous online program uses evidence-based leadership practices and improvement science to assist leaders as they guide the teaching of excellent instructors, manage the complex needs of students and parents, and help orchestrate school reform. Learn more and register for a [virtual](#) information session.

VDOE Superintendent's Memos

- **[School Resource Officers and School Security Officers Grant Program Opportunity](#):** The DCJS is offering two grant opportunities to fund School Resource Officers and School Security Officers. Grant applications must be submitted through the DCJS Online Grants Management System no later than **5 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2022**.
- **[2023 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions Informational Webinar](#):** As stated in [Superintendent's Memo #191-22](#), the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and our partners at Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia, will host two, 30-minute informational webinars for school divisions as we prepare to administer the 2023 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions. The webinars will be held on **September 14 and 20, 2022**.
- **[Webinar for Federal Accountability Participation](#):** The Office of Accountability, in collaboration with the Office of School Quality, will conduct a webinar on Federal Accountability Participation. The webinars will be held on **September 16 and 30, 2022**.

See all [Superintendent's Memos](#) for this and previous years

Weekly memoranda from the Superintendent of Public Instruction are the means by which the Virginia Department of Education communicates official information to the Commonwealth's school divisions.

- MEMO 211-22
[Patriot Day](#) (PDF)

- MEMO 210-22
[College Partnership Laboratory Schools](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 209-22
[2022-2023 Green Ribbon School](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 208-22
[Data Collection: Subawards and Subcontracts on Federal Grants Awards in FY 2022](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 207-22
[Federal Program Monitoring of the School Nutrition Programs in 2022-2023](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 206-22
[2022 Virginia School Plant Management Association Annual Conference](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 205-22
[2022-2023 Fall Student Record Collection and Miscellaneous Statistics Due: October 14, 2022](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 204-22
[2022-2023 Title V, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural and Low-Income School Program Allocations under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 \(ESEA\), as Amended](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 203-22
[Advancing Computer Science Education \(ACSE\) Competitive Grant Request for Proposals \(RFP\) - Fiscal Year 2023](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 202-22
[Early Childhood Provisionally Licensed Teacher Incentive Program](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 201-22
[FY 2022 Pandemic EBT Local Level Administrative Cost Grant Funds](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 200-22
[2022-2023 Title II, Part A, Allocations under Provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 \(ESEA\), as Amended](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 199-22
[Data Collection for FY 2023 National Board Certification Incentive Awards](#) (PDF) MEMO 195-22
[Educator Misconduct Reporting Requirements](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 194-22
[Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 193-22
[U.S. Department of Education Approves Multiple ESSA Waiver Requests](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 192-22
[September is Attendance Awareness Month](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 191-22
[2023 Virginia School Survey of Climate and Working Conditions](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 190-22
[Coordinated Preschool Enrollment](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 189-22
[Required Entrance Procedures and Criteria for Identifying Potential English Learners](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 188-22
[Title IV, Part A Required Federal Reporting](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 187-22
[Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Amendment 5 to Virginia's ESSA Consolidated State Plan](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 186-22
[Virginia Literacy Act Implementation](#) (PDF)
- MEMO 184-22
[2021-2022 Annual Report, Programs for the Gifted](#) (PDF)

Learning for Justice: Black Visibility Matters

Black Visibility Matters: The Inconvenient Truths of Bias and Erasure

Racial stereotypes and myths are perpetuated constantly and we—collectively and individually—allow that to happen with the narratives we center and those we don't. [In our latest article](#), LFJ Deputy Director of Programs & Strategy Kevin Myles and Learning for Justice Staff outline the importance of providing role models for Black children, particularly in intellectual spaces where Black people are typically rendered invisible.

THE MOMENT

- [Black Visibility Matters: The Inconvenient Truths of Bias and Erasure](#)
- [It Has Stayed with Me](#)
- [Use the Tools of Science to Recognize Inequity in Science](#)

Learning for Justice Magazine Is Coming in October!

Themed “Expanding Democracy,” the 2022 Fall issue will include timely articles on raising anti-racist children, supporting LGBTQ+ youth, recentring the CRT debate, countering the school-to-prison pipeline, addressing online extremism, supporting immigrant students, confronting ableism, and highlighting intersecting social justice movements. [Subscribe now!](#)

Building a Reading-Writing Connection in the Class

By Hannah Iron-Frake, Teacher

[Read the Blog](#)

One of my favorite summer activities is grabbing a fresh Flair pen and a new science of reading book as I head to a cozy chair and begin reading, underlining, and making notes in the margins. I also like to look back on books I've previously read and examine my thoughts from the past. As I think about the importance of connecting reading and writing in the classroom, I am brought back to a sentence I underlined twice and starred as a favorite in my LETRS® Volume 2 manual. It reads, “In addition to the simple fact that writing is required of students, writing is important because it benefits reading (231).”

The simplicity of this sentence shouldn't mask how clearly it speaks to the importance of writing in the elementary classroom. Writing is important but it's also a powerful tool for the development of reading.

Read more in educator Hannah Iron-Frake's full blog post, where she shares strategies for how to build opportunities for purposeful writing into instruction and ways writing strengthens student learning.

WonderGrove: Enjoy Dozens of Free Animated and Printable Resources from WonderGrove Social Skills

Are you looking for [K-2 resources for your classroom](#)? You can download dozens of lessons and printables from WonderGrove Social Skills on our website. Be sure to check out the example videos as well.

Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center: Teacher Open House

September 22 | 5:30pm-7:30pm. Teachers and one guest for each will receive complimentary admission to the Aquarium, with full access to our exhibits including program demonstrations, animal encounters and much more! Plus, enter to win a free outreach or virtual program for your class!

No registration required - simply arrive with your school ID. Additional guests \$24.95.

For questions, please contact the School and Youth Programs office at 757-385-0278.

Educators will also be able to explore our new RESCUE changing exhibit during the Open House!

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Field Trips

We're here to help give your students an unforgettable experience.



Outreach Programs

Our trained educators can bring marine science right to your classroom!

Virtual Learning

Can't visit? No problem! Check out our virtual programs available for classroom use.



Need Funding Assistance?

Our Access Aquarium Grant provides support to educators for all of these programs!

CERCA Slide Sets: Writing Lessons -- Growing & Becoming

Nature versus nature – are we destined to be who we are from birth or do we become who we are based on the environment around us?

Check out our [NEW writing lessons](#) where students consider the influences that shape us as we grow. Check out some of our favorite lessons from this set below!


And we've got you covered with additional resources including:

- **Student Guides**
- **Pear Decks** for interactive support
- **Direct Instruction** lessons on Context Clues

Ready to make the most of our research-backed CERCA framework, proven to double annual reading growth?

[Sign up here](#) gain access to our [ThinkCERCA platform](#) and try it out!

[See all grade levels for Growing & Becoming](#)

 Key Question: What are the influences that shape us as we grow and become the people we're going to be?



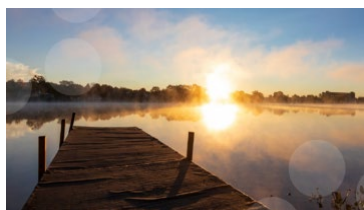
Grade 6
Fish Cheeks

[CERCA Slides](#) / [Student Guide](#) / [Pear Deck](#)



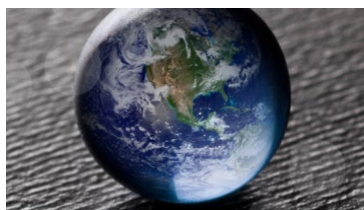
Grade 7
The Coolness Equation

[CERCA Slides](#) / [Student Guide](#) / [Pear Deck](#)



Grade 9
Once More to the Lake

[CERCA Slides](#) / [Student Guide](#) / [Pear Deck](#)



Grade 11
Beauty: When the Other Dancer Is the Self

[CERCA Slides](#) / [Student Guide](#) / [Pear Deck](#)

VASCD September 2022 Newsletter

Message from Executive Director Chris Jones: As a commonwealth, we are now underway with the 2022-2023 academic school year! It is inspiring to admire the joy, passion, excitement, and enthusiasm to kick off the year, and it seems like a reunion with our "why" has taken place in classrooms and schools across Virginia. The

honor associated with serving society as an educator must be met with the appreciation from those of us serving in support roles. I cannot think of any profession more important than this one!

In this month's newsletter, I am excited to bring you a glimpse at the work ahead! To begin, our Board of Directors welcomed two new members. Rashard Wright, Chief of Staff in Newport News Public Schools, is our Region 2 Representative. Roberto Pamas, Associate Professor at George Mason University, is our New Teacher Recruitment and Resources for Support Leader.

I am also excited to share the [VASCD 3.0 STRATEGIC PLAN](#) with you. In addition to the full strategic plan, I've also included the one-pager below. There are exciting things on the horizon for VASCD and for educators throughout the commonwealth.

In this newsletter, you will also find a call for podcast guests as well as one for our spotlight series. I encourage you to engage and share your story! We also have several opportunities for professional learning, including upcoming events. Be sure to check them out!

Finally, you will see a new option for membership at the organization-level offered at a discounted rate for you and your teams! It is an absolute honor and privilege to serve you as the Executive Director of VASCD!

On-Demand Options Available

With over 21 Micro-Credentials in our [catalog](#), we have what you need to meet your students' changing needs! For a quick glimpse at how our Micro-Credentials align to the teacher evaluation, click [HERE](#). For Micro-Credentials information and enrollment, [click here](#).

The VASCD [module-based courses](#) are intended for introduction and acquisition, as a bite-sized and on-demand option for professional learning. VASCD's module-based courses provide an opportunity to engage with the content and to connect the learner's experiences to their learning.

Our Programs Team has designed a few more upcoming events that meet your needs!

- Aspire to Ascend Series coming in October: 12th (Teacher Leadership and Instructional Coaching), 19th (School Leadership), and 26th (Central Support Leadership). Stay tuned for information and registration! *Virtual and Bite-Sized*
- TIPS Conference - Tiered Instruction, Practices, and Systems - coming in the afternoon of Election Day in November! *Virtual*

For additional information, please go to vascd.org

The American Civil War Museum

For information on upcoming events, please [click here](#).

Professional Learning

Free PD Opportunities through Virtual Virginia

Virtual Virginia is kicking off the 2022–2023 school year with a wide variety of [professional learning opportunities](#), including new courses developed with our educational partners and courses and webinars geared

to the Statewide Learning Management System (LMS). Remember, all professional learning opportunities are free for Virginia public school educators!

Partnership: CodeVA + VVA

"What Is Computer Science?" For Educators

Learn the fundamentals of computer science, the Virginia SOLs for computer science, and how to teach computational thinking. [Enroll Now in "What Is CS?"](#)

Partnership: Marginal Revolution University + VVA

Supply & Demand Crash Course, 2022–2023

Designed for first-time and experienced economics teachers, this course covers the basics of supply and demand. [Enroll Here](#)

Partnership: George Mason's TTAC + VVA

Courses on high-leverage practices

[Enroll in these free courses](#) about High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) for Students with Disabilities.

Dive deeper into the Statewide LMS

[This free program](#) provides structured, role-specific pathways to help educators level up their Canvas LMS skills for digital instruction.

Attend Canvas LMS webinars

[Browse the variety of free webinars](#) hosted by VVA and Instructure about using the Canvas LMS in a variety of educational settings and roles.

For questions about these or other professional learning opportunities from Virtual Virginia, contact Professional Learning Coordinator Steven Sproles at steven.sproles@virtualva.org.

Virtual Virginia Statewide LMS Weekly Meetings

Every Tuesday, 1 p.m., starting September 13. As Virginia school division leaders, educators, students, and families navigate a new era of digital learning in the 2022–2023 school year, Virtual Virginia, Instructure, and VSTE will expand support for school divisions adopting, implementing, and exploring VVA's statewide Canvas learning management system (LMS).

Whether your division has already fully implemented the Statewide LMS or continues to explore how the LMS supports learning in your schools, please encourage the appropriate members of your personnel to attend our Statewide LMS Weekly Meetings.

Weekly attendees can take advantage of the custom offerings provided in 2022–2023, including:

- support for K–12 in-person digital learning,
- webinars geared towards digital learning,
- division LMS strategic planning sessions,
- in-person classroom teacher support,
- and much more!

If your team has any questions about the Statewide LMS or would like to customize your division's existing implementation of the Statewide LMS, please contact VVA School Support Coordinator Stephanie Shea at stephanie.shea@virtualva.org to schedule a division-specific meeting with the VVA support team.

[Sign Up for the Statewide LMS Weekly Meetings!](#)

Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) News and Updates

Check out the very latest from the [Virginia Society for Technology in Education](#)! You'll find some great things including templates for teachers from Common Sense Media

Technology & Tech Tips

10 Innovative Ideas for Integrating Technology from the #NYCSchoolsTech Summit

[Ideas, strategies, and practices](#) to help shape the future of teaching and learning

DESMOS Classroom

Webinar Series: Steps Ahead with Desmos Classroom. [Register now.](#)

Join us for a virtual professional development opportunity like no other. Sit in on a Desmos Classroom lesson taught by expert educators and Desmos Classroom super users. You will play the role of a student and even peek behind the curtain as you experience Desmos Classroom's engaging, collaborative digital activities, and powerful, live classroom monitoring tools. See lessons that are coming up in the scope and sequence, and take implementation strategies and tips back to your own classroom.

Upcoming Webinars: [Register Here](#)

Step Ahead with Desmos Classroom and Maria Flores-Iavarone on Wednesday, Sept. 21 @ 7 pm ET

Step Ahead with Desmos Classroom and Dan Meyer on Tuesday, Oct. 18 @ 7 pm ET

Step Ahead with Desmos Classroom and Chrissy Newell on Tuesday, Nov. 15 @ 7 pm ET

In the News

Virginia Daily Education News: Schools Continue Coping with COVID

Washington County Virginia Public Schools (WCS) is reporting hundreds of COVID-19 cases less than a month into the school year. Since starting on Aug. 9, the school system has recorded 485 COVID cases among staff and students, according to Paula Nichols, school health coordinator and head nurse. [Read more here.](#)

Self-Care & SEL

Optima Health: Employee Assistance Program

September – Navigating Divorce

**“What lies behind you and what lies in front of you,
pales in comparison to what lies inside of you.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson**

The relationships we have in life will ebb and flow with both opportunities and challenges. It's important to learn from past relationships rather than regretting them, and to use what you've learned to help create the types of relationships you desire in the future. Through it all, stay in touch with yourself and use your values and priorities as a guide.



EAP Thought of the Week is developed exclusively for Optima EAP clients by the Optima EAP staff.

Optima EAP is available to provide assistance when you experience challenges at home or at work. Please call to schedule a confidential appointment with one of our licensed clinical professionals.

1-800-899-8174 or 757-363-6777

Visit our website at OptimaEAP.com for additional topics and information.

Best Free Social-Emotional Learning Sites and Apps

Social-emotional learning (SEL) has become an important tool for helping students with the so-called “soft skills” of life -- emotional regulation, social interactions, empathy, decision making.

We may term them “soft,” but these skills are in fact essential for every child to master as part of maturing into a mentally healthy adult who can successfully navigate the world beyond the schoolyard.

The following [free SEL resources](#) will provide a solid foundation for educators to understand and implement SEL in their classrooms and schools.

Complimentary Webinar “Shades of Suicide”: How Student Risk Profiles Inform Best Practices

September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

Webinar: September 15 @ 1 pm ET

In this webinar, you will learn the facts about student suicide attitudes and risks, and learn how we can respond to these risks with evidence-based suicide prevention. **You just might save a life.**

What You’ll Learn in This Webinar:

- Use student profiles to inform understanding and response to risk
- Awareness of student mindsets of suicide and self-harm
- Address ways to encourage life-saving connections
- Implement evidence-based suicide prevention

Learn how educators use student profiles to understand and respond to student risk of suicide and self harm.

[Register for the webinar today!](#)

William & Mary Expert Shares Ways to Support K-12 Students’ Mental Health

Please feel free to share this link to William & Mary faculty member Leandra Parris’ back to school tips for supporting K-12 students’ mental health with teachers, parents and school communities:

<https://news.wm.edu/2022/09/08/back-to-school-expert-shares-ways-to-support-k-12-students-mental-health/>

Of Interest to Our Students & Families

Divorce and Children: Helping Kids Deal with the Effects

Optima EAP provides health related information and is offering a webinar entitled “Navigating Divorce.” Please see the attached flyer for additional information.

Webinar: Navigating Divorce

Presented by: Cheryl Mirabella

Whether you're considering a divorce, or it has already been initiated, this webinar will provide the tools you need to navigate the process with the least amount of stress and conflict possible. In addition to concrete tips and supportive resources, we will explore areas including: effective communication, navigating the logistical and emotional aspects of divorce, understanding and managing stages of grief, building resilience, and planning for the next chapter. While divorce is almost always difficult to go through, you can come out of it feeling stronger and more self-aware than before. Regardless of where you are in the process, this dynamic session will empower you with information, tools, and resources to support you during and after your divorce.

Log-in any time this month to watch the webinar and ask the expert questions!



September
2022.pdf

Become a Drone Flyer

UMS 107: Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems – Remote Pilot Ground School

You can earn credit at Tidewater Community College to prepare for the **FAA Part 107 Exam** to fly drones.

Zoom from home with on-campus training experiences. *Class Details:* UMS 107 H02B TR 6-8:50pm from 10/18/22 to 12/9/22

Sign up for **UMS 107** today! For more information, contact: Judy Gill at jgill@tcc.edu or visit tcc.edu



Virginia School Boards Association

The Virginia School Boards Association is once again asking Virginia high school students to create a video that expresses their thoughts and ideas about public education. The theme for the 11th annual competition, is “Rising Above” Students are invited to submit a 30-second video that conveys the contest theme. The top 3 videos, along with those identified by the judges as honorable mentions, will be posted on VSBA’s YouTube site, and winners will be honored at the VSBA Annual Convention in November.

For more information on how to submit video entries, please see the attached document. Information is also available on the VSBA website. PLEASE NOTE: Only ONE submission per school division will be accepted.

The submission deadline is October 3, 2022.

****Each student participant listed must complete a Release Form****

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Brewster, assistant executive director, at tom@vsba.org or 434-295-8722 ext. 139.

Help COX Spread the Word about Affordable Broadband for Students

It's back-to-school season in Virginia! Along with new backpacks, color-coded folders, Elmer's glue and pencils, there's another tool Virginia students need to succeed this year. Reliable high-speed internet is a key aspect of promoting academic equity and achievement. According to one survey, 70% of teachers assign homework that requires broadband access. That means students without an internet connection are often left behind. Cox is working hard to raise awareness of our affordability program for low-income households with K-12 students—called Connect2Compete—and we could use your help.

At Cox, we're committed to creating digital equity and ensuring all students have the same opportunities to shine at school. That's why we've invested billions into our nationwide network, with \$10B more planned in the next five years—to expand access to broadband infrastructure to more homes every year. When it comes to broadband service, though, affordability is just as important as accessibility.

We thought the start of the new school year was a great opportunity to remind you (and your constituents) about Cox's robust affordability portfolio. Our flagship program, Connect2Compete (C2C), is specifically designed to provide low-income households with school-aged children with affordable broadband service. Virginia families that participate in any government assistance program are eligible for C2C—and can subscribe to speeds up to 100 Mbps download for just \$9.95/month. C2C customers also gain access to over 3 million Cox Wifi hotspots, and to our online [Digital Academy](#). The Digital Academy connects families, educators, community leaders and students with free access to tips, educational videos and tutorials to ensure safe and effective online behavior.

More than 90% of parents in Connect2Compete households agreed that having low-cost internet service at home gives their children a “leg up.” So we want to raise awareness and provide that “leg up” to as many Virginia students as we can. That's where you come in. We'd appreciate your help spreading the word about C2C, as well as Cox's other affordability programs, such as [ConnectAssist](#) for non-student households. You can direct constituents who face financial barriers to broadband connection, including lack of access to an internet capable device, to our Digital Equity Hub at www.cox.com/digitalequity for more information, or share the attached flyer.

And please reach out if there's anything our team can do to support your office in this work—from providing C2C marketing materials to answering questions to partnering on relevant events. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best, Derrick Williams, MBA, MSBA, BSBA, Government Affairs / Relations Sr. Analyst, Cox Virginia Government Affairs & Public Relations, 1341 Crossways Blvd, Chesapeake, VA 23320, Email: Derrick.Williams@cox.com, Office: 757-897-0209



COX-Affordability
Program Flyer.pdf

Feedback, Questions and/or Recommendations

Disclaimer of Endorsement: The information provided in this newsletter includes hypertext links or pointers to information created and maintained by outside public and/or private organizations. This material is provided solely for your information and convenience. All information provided as well as any products or services contained therein does not constitute endorsement by Poquoson City Public Schools.

Please feel free to reach out with feedback or questions you may have regarding any of the items above. Also, if you have information regarding resources or opportunities you think your colleagues may be interested in, please feel free to send them to me via [email](#) so they can be included in the next newsletter. Thank you!

NOTE: If you participate in any activities or events and find that you need documentation for licensure points, please let me know and I will work with you to make sure you are provided with a certificate of completion.