# Superintendent’s Memo #011-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 17, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ Our American Story Student Contest, Deadline Extension

[AMERICAN EVOLUTION™](https://www.americanevolution2019.com/) commemorates the 400th anniversary of several key historical events that occurred in Virginia in 1619 that continue to influence America today. Featured events, programs, and legacy projects inspire local, national, and international engagement in the themes of democracy, diversity, and opportunity.

[WHRO](https://whro.org/) Education has partnered with the 2019 AMERICAN EVOLUTION™ commemoration to launch the Our American Story Contest. Our American Story is a digital student contest (for 8th–12th grades) designed to foster creativity, cooperative learning, critical examination, and discussion among our country’s next generation of leaders. The contest is inspired by the foundational events that occurred in Virginia in 1619. These events reflect stories of triumph, injustice, struggles, innovation, and success that indelibly influenced and continue to shape today’s America.

This contest deadline has been extended from November 20, 2018 to March 15, 2019.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://www.americanevolution2019.com/education/our-american-story/>.

For additional information, please contact Betsy Barton, Specialist for History and Social Science, Office of Humanities, by email at Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3454.

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