# Superintendent’s Memo #138-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: June 14, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and Youth Registered Apprenticeship (YRA) Program Opportunities

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education and Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, Division of Registered Apprenticeships are pleased to announce two work-based learning opportunities through Registered Apprenticeship (RA) and Youth Registered Apprenticeship (YRA). These programs provide industry-driven work-based learning experiences for secondary school students age 16 years or older.

Registered apprenticeship offers worksite training from a skilled mentor in a specified occupation. Students can obtain paid work experience, occupation specific instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential. Registered apprenticeship programs combine on-the-job training with related technical instruction. Registered apprenticeship training is based on national industry standards and can be customized to the needs of the employer. The participating employment sponsor provides high-quality career pathways to prepare the future workforce.

Youth registered apprenticeship integrates school-based and work-based learning to help students gain employability and occupational skills. Career and technical education programs provide related technical instruction based on state-approved essential competencies. The participating employment sponsor provides the worksite supervision of a skilled mentor to meet on-the-job training requirements.

The Department of Labor and Industry approves local employers to be a Registered Apprenticeship and/or Youth Registered Apprenticeship sponsors. These sponsors may hire students to participate in the appropriate program. Upon completion of the program, the apprentice receives a nationally recognized credential, which consists of a completion certificate and journeyworker card. The portable credential signifies to employers that the individual is fully qualified in that specific occupation.

The Division of Registered Apprenticeship is available to discuss and assist school divisions in establishing Registered Apprenticeship and Youth Registered Apprenticeship programs. If you have questions regarding either program, please contact Kathleen Eddington, Assistant Director, Division of Registered Apprenticeship, at kathleen.eddington@doli.virginia.gov.

JFL/GRW/aab