# Superintendent’s Memo #171-19

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: July 19, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Update on Virginia Department of Education Study of Special Education Regional Programs Project

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update to all divisions on the status of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Study of Special Education Regional Programs Project and what divisions can expect, as VDOE transitions to a funding model for Students with Intensive Support Needs, with a more equitable distribution of funds.

The last update on the status of the Project was provided in Superintendent’s Memorandum #343-18, dated December 21, 2018. Since then, VDOE has moved forward with providing funds to first time recipients. As of July 2019, 35 additional school divisions have received funds. By June 2020, it is expected the remaining 19 school divisions will receive funds, so that all possible new recipients in the state will be receiving funds.

The VDOE is notifying divisions to discuss the following conditions to be in effect for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2020 (i.e., school year 2019-2020):

* Divisions that received funds for the first time in SFY 2018 and SFY 2019, funds to be provided in SFY 2020 will be determined by the actual data submitted and discussions with the VDOE, which may result in revision to their February 2019 Calc-Tool amounts;
* Divisions that will receive funds for the first time in SFY 2020, the VDOE will meet with them to discuss funds that will be made available and how they will need to apply for these funds;
* Divisions participating in the eleven original Regional Programs that voluntarily claimed less than the amount reflected in the Calc-Tool estimate for SFY 2019 can continue to do so for SFY 2020 and the total state share may be capped at the SFY 2019 amount after discussions with individual divisions;
* Divisions participating in the eleven original Regional Programs that have continued to increase their claims, the VDOE will initiate discussions concerning their SFY 2020 claims;
* Divisions participating in the eleven original Regional Programs will be contacted concerning changing from a Rate Package to individual divisions submitting an Application for Funds for Students with Intensive Support Needs. The VDOE will provide specific direction no later than September 2019, concerning the time frame for this change.

The VDOE recognizes the potential impact of revised levels of funding and, as noted above, any changes will be made through individual discussions with divisions. The VDOE staff members will continue to provide additional detail through communication with divisions during the 2019-2020 school year and beyond with the ultimate goal to transition to a more equitable distribution of funds for Students with Intensive Support Needs.

Your continued cooperation in this important Project is greatly appreciated. For further information, you may contact Mrs. Angel Lee, Special Education Financial Intensive Support Analyst, at (804) 225-2043 or via email at [Angel.Lee@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Angel.Lee@doe.virginia.gov), or Mr. Paul Raskopf, Tuition Reimbursement Program Assistant, at (804) 225-2038 or via email at [Paul.Raskopf@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Paul.Raskopf@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/tlc