# Superintendent’s Memo #200-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: August 23, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: #GoOpenVA Content Acquisition Committees Seeking Applicants

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is currently developing a cloud-based platform and community for open education resources. The statewide platform and repository, #GoOpenVA, will be made available to all PK-12 educators and administrators across all disciplines and programs in January 2020. The purpose of #GoOpenVA is to create a community of practice where educators become confident in finding, adapting, creating, and evaluating high-quality open materials and requires teachers to have a “commons” mindset. This shift in our culture of practice requires an understanding of Open Educational Resources (OER), the purpose of OER, and how the success of the #GoOpenVA project is completely reliant on our educational community as a whole. Over the next couple of years, VDOE and VSTE (Virginia Society for Technology Education) will be providing opportunities for professional learning to all teachers across the state. Training will be ongoing and publicized widely.

To support the launch of #GoOpenVA, the VDOE is seeking nominations for individuals who are qualified and available to serve on short-term Content Acquisition Committees. Nominees should be teachers, principals, administrators, curriculum specialists, or other educators who have knowledge of the following content areas: HS Math, HS Science, HS Social Studies, HS English, MS Math, MS Science, MS Social Studies, MS English, and World Language (other subject areas and grade levels will be included in later Committees). Content Acquisition Committee members will be asked to participate in a 4-hour online course, attend 2 webinars, review and align already existing resources to the Virginia Standards of Learning, edit and repost 15 resources, and upload at least 5 additional new resources to the repository. All work will be conducted online and is to be completed by January 2, 2020.

Individuals who wish to serve on the committees must submit an application at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ContentAcquisitionCommittees>. All applications will require a professional reference and division approval.

Committee members will be selected based on expertise and experience in their content area and balanced regional representation. Completed applications are due by September 20, 2019, and selected individuals will be notified by September 30, 2019.

Committee members who work outside of contract hours will be provided a stipend for time and quality of work. All committee members may receive recertification points, pending the approval of their school division.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Weller at jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov or 804-225-2825.

JFL/JW/ce