# Superintendent’s Memo #215-19

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: September 6, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Robots for Autism Grant

The Virginia Department of Education is offering a grant opportunity to encourage school divisions to purchase robotic devices to aid in the academic and social-emotional learning of students on the autism spectrum. The 2019 General Assembly passed an appropriation that provides funding to explore the use of robotic devices in aiding in the academic and social emotional learning of students on the autism spectrum.

Selected applicants will be awarded up to $20,000 to purchase robotic devices to aid in the education of students on the autism spectrum. Successful applications ([Attachment A](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/215-19a.docx)) address the use of robotic devices paired with evidence-based practices and alignment with the Profile of a Virginia Graduate. Applicants may be a school division or individual school or classroom.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Daniel Irwin, Autism Specialist, at [Daniel.Irwin@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Daniel.Irwin@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 371-7421.

JFL/DI

### Attachment

A: [Robots for Autism Project Application](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/215-19a.docx) (Word)