# Superintendent’s Memo #255-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 25, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Request for Applications from Virginia School Divisions for Divisionwide Technical Assistance to Develop Exemplary Services for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Virginia Department of Education would like to extend an invitation to school divisions to apply for a technical assistance grant for improving autism services. On October 15, 2019, The Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE) released its request for applications from Virginia school divisions. The application (Attachment A and B) is for school divisions requesting divisionwide technical assistance in developing exemplary services to support students with autism spectrum disorder.

School divisions that have not yet received this grant are eligible to apply for the fourth cohort. The VCU-ACE will select grant recipients through a competitive review process. The review committee will select between five to seven divisions to receive three years of technical assistance and support beginning in March of 2020. Successful applications will demonstrate a clearly defined strategy for long-term systemic changes across the entire school division.

Recipients of this grant will receive approximately forty to fifty hours per month of technical assistance from VCU-ACE technical assistance associates. The VCU-ACE model provides supports at the classroom level (bottom-up) and at the division leader level (top-down) and is intended to build capacity though the development of a division specific autism services improvement plan.

Applications must be submitted by December 16, 2019.

The application, additional details, and an informative video are available through the [VCU-ACE website](https://vcuautismcenter.org/cohort4application). If you have additional questions regarding the application, please contact Daniel Irwin, Autism Specialist, at Daniel.Irwin@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 371-7421.

JFL/di

**Attachments**

1. [Request for Applications for Divisionwide Technical Assistance](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/255-19a.docx) (accessible Word)
2. [Request for Applications for Divisionwide Technical Assistance](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/255-19b.pdf) (pdf)