



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

**DATE:** April 20, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** *The Virginia PreK Teacher Institute*

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with The Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) at the University of Virginia and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation (VECF), is pleased to announce the *Virginia PreK Teacher Institute: Link and Think - Promoting Connection and Cognition* will be held July 17 and 18, 2018, in Williamsburg, Virginia, with the program beginning at 9:15 a.m. The Institute is designed to provide opportunities for collaborating and sharing intentional teaching strategies across school divisions and localities. The focus of this two-day institute will focus on the areas of Social Emotional Learning and Mathematics. Topics addressed will include:

- Building self-control, awareness of feelings, and emotion regulation,
- integrating STEM into instruction in center and play-based activities, and
- incorporating reasoning and problem-solving skills through developmentally appropriate math instruction.

The event will include a variety of formats including a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, and an unconference or Edcamp segment, in which participants “give and get” by sharing their learning on a professional topic of their choosing.

There are no registration fees for the Institute, and breakfast and lunch will be provided for participants. School divisions are encouraged to cover travel expenses and lodging, if needed, for division participants. Institutes as these costs are not assumed by the VDOE.

**Registration:** Registration is available at the following website:

- [Virginia PreK Teacher Institute Event Registration](#) ➡

Space is limited and slots are filled on a first-come, first-serve basis with consideration given to achieve equity across school divisions until all participant spaces are filled.

Due to limited space, please complete the pre-registration process to express interest in attending the Institute as soon as possible. Each individual planning to attend is to pre-register. Please do not pre-register another person. Once requests for pre-registration are reviewed, individuals will be notified if they have received a space or not. Confirmation of registration will be emailed no later than May 11, 2018.

**Location:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Williamsburg, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Those who need a hotel room must register by June 16, 2018.

**Time:** Registration and continental breakfast will be from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. The conference will begin at 9:15 a.m. and conclude by 4:30 p.m.

**Institute Materials:** Participant materials and agenda will be provided at the Institute.

**Meals:** Breakfast and lunch will be provided both days.

**Travel Expenses:** School divisions are encouraged to cover participants' travel expenses (e.g., mileage, lodging, if applicable) based on state travel rates. The VDOE will not provide reimbursement for participants' travel expenses.

**Contact:** The Office of Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech will manage registration. Questions regarding registration should be directed to Sarah Downer, Conference Registrar, Virginia Tech Office of Continuing and Professional Education, via email at [sldowner@vt.edu](mailto:sldowner@vt.edu) ✉ or by telephone at (540)-231-0990. Questions regarding the content of the Institute should be directed to Dr. Laura Kassner, VPI+ State Coordinator, via email at [Laura.Kassner@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Laura.Kassner@doe.virginia.gov) ✉ or by telephone at (804) 225-3394.

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