Attachment A to Supts. Memo No. 128-18

May 11, 2018



# Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS)

# Cohort 5

# Invitation to Apply

RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW

The Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) integrates academics, behavior and mental health into a single decision-making framework for establishing the supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all students. The VTSS systemic approach allows divisions, schools, and communities to provide multiple levels of support to students in a more effective and efficient, clearly defined process.

The VTSS Cohort 5 participating divisions will receive training and technical assistance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to implement the VTSS framework in their divisions and selected schools. Through data driven decision-making, participating divisions and schools will guide ongoing practices for academic, behavioral, and social-emotional approaches to support student achievement. Our goal for the VTSS Cohort 5 is to improve academic achievement, attendance, and behavioral outcomes for all students.

Training and technical assistance efforts are funded by the State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) program, a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Federal Award #H323A170018).

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Each division and participating school(s) in the VTSS Cohort 5 will receive the following support:

* A two-year VTSS implementation plan will be developed in collaboration with each Division Leadership Team (DLT) within three months of selection. The implementation plan will include a timeline with implementation steps and activities driven by the division’s unique data.

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* Access to high-quality regional and/or statewide trainings led by state and national experts;
* On-site technical assistance provided by assigned VTSS Systems Coaches;
* Networking opportunities with other division implementers;
* Systems Coaching training for selected division leaders;
* Access to publications and web-based professional learning modules;
* Self-assessment of implementation facilitated regularly to ascertain progress; and
* Assistance with the alignment of other initiatives and requirements with the VDOE Office of School Improvement and other VDOE activities.

DIVISION COMMITMENT

The VTSS Cohort 5 Divisions will:

* Identify VTSS as one of the top division goals. Efforts will be made to align separate initiatives under this framework.
* Allocate local funding and resources to support implementation of the VTSS framework.
* Form a Division Leadership Team (DLT) that is representative of the division and community. The DLT commits to meeting monthly and attending VDOE-sponsored professional learning opportunities.
* Appoint a Division Coordinator and at least one other member to serve as VTSS Division Systems Coaches. These professionals commit to providing coaching and/or follow-up support to schools following professional learning opportunities.
* Allocate time in the school calendar for school based teams, school coaches and administrators to access VDOE-sponsored professional learning opportunities.
* Commit to engaging family, youth and community in planning, implementation and evaluation of the VTSS framework.
* Develop and monitor the VTSS implementation plan, which addresses all three tiers and is aligned with academics, school improvement and/or strategic goals and plans.

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* Utilize the implementation plan to build division capacity to support schools in the implementation of VTSS with fidelity.
* Participate in all evaluation activities as outlined by project evaluators contracted by VDOE.
* Support the collection of evaluation data required of the schools.
* Provide school-based teams timely access to academic and behavior data.

PREPARING THE APPLICATION

All applications must be prepared in accordance with the specifications below. Applications must include:

# Section A: Documentation of Division Exploration Activities

# Section B: VTSS Commitment for Success Agreement and Signature Page

# Section C: Letters of Support (optional)

Completed applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on June 13, 2018. Paper original or scanned electronic copies are acceptable. All applications must bear the signature of the Division Superintendent on the Signature Page (see Section B). All submitted proposals become the property of VDOE.

**The address for delivery is:**

Virginia Department of Education

Attn: Maribel Saimre

Office of Student Services

P.O. Box 2120

Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120

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PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION

Divisions will be selected as follows:

1. Screening – Proposals will be screened to ensure that all required components of the applications were submitted.
2. Review – Complete applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee assembled by VDOE.
3. Selection – Divisions will be notified of selection for participation in VTSS Cohort 5 by July 6, 2018.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions or require further clarification, please contact Maribel Saimre, Associate Director, at Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov, or telephone (804) 692-0396.