# Superintendent’s Memo #028-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: February 7, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Virginia Declaration of Learning Program

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce that applications are being accepted for the first year of the Virginia Declaration of Learning Program (VDOL).

This yearlong program is exclusively for educators working in fourth through twelfth grade art, social studies, English/language arts, special education, and English Learner classrooms as well as school librarians and media specialists and is offered at no cost to divisions or participants. Developed through a partnership with George Washington’s Mount Vernon, the American Civil War Museum, the Chrysler Museum of Art, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture the VDOL is an immersive professional development experience, managed by the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

VDOL begins with a five-day summer training, August 10-14, 2020 at Mount Vernon, where participants will develop innovative units incorporating objects, art, and primary sources from the partner museum collections. The program features special site visits, inquiry-based learning activities, and mentoring from former program participants. Throughout the following school year, teachers will refine their unit plans and complete a civic engagement project. There will be a culminating event in summer 2021. Virginia educators selected for the program will earn up to 35 professional development hours for participating and will receive stipends tied to programmatic goals. Former program participants will serve as mentors and provide assistance with the development of resources and civic engagement projects during the school year.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on February 23, 2020, using the following [Application](https://forms.gle/FibKpRjYDXt52P8U6) link.  Those interested in applying may learn more about the initiative at [VDOL](https://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/virginia-declaration-of-learning-professional-development-program/). For further information, please contact Ms. Christonya Brown, Coordinator of History and Social Science, at Christonya.Brown@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2893.

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