# Superintendent’s Memo #056-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: March 6, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: 6th Annual Advocacy Symposium

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Department of Special Education and Student Services (SESS), in collaboration with the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) is offering a one-day training opportunity on advocacy in special education on Friday, May 8, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The 6th Annual Advocacy Symposium will convene at the Virginia Crossings Hilton Hotel, 1000 Virginia Center Parkway, Glen Allen, Virginia 23059. This Symposium is designed for anyone who advocates for students with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Symposium participants will receive information on: (i) what is new in special education law; (ii) updates on any legislation passed during the latest General Assembly session; (iii) information on how to talk with students with disabilities about sexual relationships; (iv) the VDOE/PEATC Transition University modules; and (v) participation in a facilitated small group discussion.

Participation in this Symposium is at minimal cost. There is no registration fee and complimentary lodging will be provided on a limited basis for Thursday, May 7, 2020, for all participants who travel more than 60 miles one-way to the symposium location. A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided to all registered symposium participants on Friday, May 8, 2020. Space is limited for this Symposium; as such, registrations and lodging requests will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All participants **must pre-register** using the following web link: [AdvocacySymposium2020](https://2020advocacysymposium.eventbrite.com/). Upon acceptance of their registration, attendees will receive confirmation of their registration and additional information from PEATC staff regarding the symposium.

Participant materials and an agenda will be provided during the on-site registration process at the symposium venue. For questions regarding online registration, or to register by phone, interested participants should contact PEATC, at (800) 869-6782. General questions regarding the Advocacy Symposium should be directed to Hank Millward, Director, Virginia Department of Education, by email, at [Hank.Millward@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Hank.Millward@doe.virginia.gov), or via telephone, at (804) 371-0525.

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