# Superintendent’s Memo #143-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: June 18, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: 2020-2021 Academy for New Special Education Directors

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to extend an invitation to any newly hired local Directors of Special Education to the Academy for New Special Education Directors. The yearlong Academy will include a one-day virtual workshop and three two-day workshops in Richmond. The first workshop will be virtual and is scheduled for **September 16, 2020**. The September workshop will provide an orientation to the Special Education and Student Services Department at VDOE, as well as critical technical assistance resources for results driven accountability and other regulatory information. The additional workshops will address relevant topics in-depth for new directors. The schedule and registration process for the workshops will be disseminated to the Academy participants in August. A new Special Education Director is defined as one who is new to the position and has not been a Special Education Director in another location or was new after last year’s Academy. If requested, new directors will be assigned a veteran special education director as a mentor.

If your school division has employed a new special education director, please provide the individual’s name, position/title, mailing address, telephone number, and email address so that an invitation to the Academy may be extended. This information should be provided to Mrs. Marie Ireland, Office of Special Education Instructional Services, and if you have additional questions, contact Mrs. Ireland at (804) 786-9775, or via email at [Marie.Ireland@doe.virginia.gov.](mailto:Marie.Ireland@doe.virginia.gov.)

JFL/MI/tc