# Superintendent’s Memo #263-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 2, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: 2021 Governor’s Summer Residential Program

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce that the 2021 Governor’s Summer Residential Program will include seven Summer Residential Governor’s Schools (SRGS) and five Governor’s World Language Academies (GWLA). The SRGS offer gifted high school students opportunities for intensive study in academics, mentorships, and visual and performing arts. The GWLA offer full-immersion academies for French, German, and Spanish; a partial-immersion academy for Japanese; and a Latin Academy. The SRGS and GWLA are available to students enrolled in public and accredited private schools as well as home-schooled students. The attachment to this memorandum provides a list of important dates associated with the application process for these programs.

The availability of these programs is contingent upon the provision of state funds by the 2021 General Assembly. If public health conditions prevent in-person programs from taking place during their scheduled times, the GWLA will be held virtually and no local tuition will be charged. Programs in the SRGS will be considered for virtual options on a case-by-case basis.

**Student Applications**
Applications, information, and administrative guides for the 2021 SRGS and GWLA are available electronically through the Virginia Department of Education’s website. Please find SRGS information [here](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/governors_school_programs/summer_residential/index.shtml), and GWLA information can be found [here](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/foreign_language/language_academies/).

**Eligibility**
Students may attend only one Governor’s Summer Residential Program during their high school career. Public high school students may apply through their schools. Home-schooled students may apply by submitting a completed application to the principal of the public high school they are zoned to attend. The student’s application then becomes part of that school’s application process. Private school students may apply through their schools. Virginia residents who attend private schools outside the Commonwealth of Virginia should contact the appropriate specialist below. For eligibility and nomination requirements specific to each program, as well as detailed application submission procedures, please refer to the administrative guides available from the respective websites mentioned above.

**Application Process**
Every school division is guaranteed representation in one of the SRGS academic programs, which include agriculture; humanities; and mathematics, science, and technology. Admission to the visual and performing arts, medicine and health sciences, engineering and marine science programs is competitive; students are selected based on the strength of their applications and the needs of the programs.

Acceptance in the GWLA is competitive. Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. A statewide selection committee reviews student applications and assessment results. Schools must order access codes for the required online testing by January 6, 2020. Order forms are available at the GWLA Web address listed above. The proctored online testing must be completed and submitted no later than January 29, 2021. There are no testing materials for nominees to the Japanese Academy, as this program accepts beginners. Completed GWLA applications and online testing must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on January 29, 2021.

Gifted education coordinators and world language personnel should review the administrative guides carefully for detailed information about the application process, including highlighted changes. Student/parent guides have also been developed for students considering the academics and mentorship programs, the visual and performing arts program, or the world language programs.

**Per Student Tuition Costs**
The cost of the Governor’s Summer Residential Programs is shared by the state and the nominating school division or private school. A division’s share for each student is based on the division’s current (2020-2021) composite index, not to exceed 50 percent of the program tuition. Public school divisions may not assess tuition for participation in these programs for students enrolled in a public school. Costs for private school students are the private school’s responsibility and are set at 50 percent of the tuition cost. The 2021 tuitions reflect the individual per student tuition costs and are listed below:

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| Agriculture | $2,700 |
| World Language Academies | $2,400 |
| Humanities | $1,950 |
| Mathematics, Science, and Technology | $1,950 |
| Medicine and Health Sciences  | $3,200 |
| Mentorships in Engineering and Marine Science | $3,500 |
| Visual and Performing Arts | $2,050 |
|  |  |

**Verification Reports**
School divisions and private schools must guarantee funding for all nominees. The verification report form, signed by school division superintendents or private school Heads of School, indicate their assurance that funding for tuition will be provided for all students they nominate. Please refer to the respective administrative guides for further details.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of the Governor’s Summer Residential Program. For information about the Governor’s World Language Academies, please contact Dr. Lisa Harris, Specialist for World Languages, Office of Humanities, by email at Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3666. For information about the Summer Residential Governor’s Schools, please contact Dr. Donna L. Poland, Specialist for Governor’s Schools and Gifted Education, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, by email at Donna.Poland@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2884.

JFL/LH/jr

### Attachment

A. [Important Dates Associated with 2021 Governor’s Summer Residential Programs](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/263-20a.docx) (Word)