# Superintendent’s Memo #306-20

  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: November 20, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

**SUBJECT: STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative: a state-funded initiative to occur outside of required instructional time. Grant awards are available to Virginia schools/divisions that have demonstrated an interest in establishing new STEM competition teams and will serve as model schools for the STEM Competition Team Initiative. In fiscal year 2021, state funding of up to $5,000 per school year is available to public elementary, middle, and high schools at which at least 40 percent of the students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The purpose of the STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative is to increase awareness of careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) among teachers and students through STEM-related, problem/project-based, team-building activities.

Schools applying for the first time can use the funds for planning purposes and will be eligible to receive a second-year (initiative expansion) grant in the subsequent year. A school division may apply for grant funding to establish and then support STEM competition teams for one or more qualifying schools in the division. Total funding can be up to $10,000 per school division per year for eligible schools.

Applications are due to VDOE by December 10, 2020. For additional details, refer to the attached *STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Guidance Document* and *STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Application Packet*.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael Bolling, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of Learning and Innovation, at (804) 225-2034 or [Michael.Bolling@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Michael.Bolling@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/MB/mr

Attachments:

1. [STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Guidance Document](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/306-20a.docx) (Word)

1. [STEM Competition Team Grant Initiative - Application Packet](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/306-20b.docx) (Word)