



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

**DATE:** May 25, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Effective PreK-3 Models for Virginia's Schools Institute**

The University of Virginia's Center for Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL), in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Virginia ASCD (VASCD), and the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals (VAESP), is hosting a one-day Effective PreK-3 Models for Virginia's Schools Institute for teams from Virginia school divisions or elementary schools. The meeting will focus on building an awareness of the ways in which effective approaches to supporting learning from preschool to grade three can help ensure that all young children in Virginia start school with the skills they need to succeed in school and life.

The Institute will be held on October 1, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Zehmer Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Participants will learn about effective PreK-3 instructional models within the Commonwealth and across the country and have time to dialogue with their own team members and teams from across Virginia about how to best support young learners.

Speakers will include:

- **Dr. Kristie Kaurez** ➔, Director of the **National P-3 Center**, which provides leadership, training, and research focused on the learning opportunities that young children experience from birth through grade three.
- **Dr. Sharon Ritchie** ➔, Director of the **FirstSchool Initiative** ➔, a national effort to develop innovative schools and schooling practices that focus on development and learning for 3-8 year olds with an emphasis on African American, Latino, and low income children and their families.
- Several **Virginia School Teams** that are working to make progress in building more effective PreK-3 approaches to supporting learning for increased student outcomes.

**Participants:** Approximately 25 teams (100 individuals) from Virginia public elementary schools will be selected among those who apply. Teams should include PreK and elementary administrators, school division instructional leadership, coaches, teachers, family engagement staff, and other stakeholders. Teams are highly encouraged to include at least one representative from a non-school based early childhood program (Head Start, community child care, etc).

**Application:** One person from each school division team will be asked to complete the [initial application form](#) ➔. Space is limited and teams will be selected on a first-come, first-served basis taking into consideration geographic and demographic representation across the state. Application forms are due June 29, 2018. Teams selected for participation will be sent notification by August 1, 2018.

**Cost:** A \$25 fee per person will cover lunch, beverages and snacks. In addition, school divisions are encouraged to cover travel expenses (e.g., mileage, lodging) for division participants for the Institute, as this cost is not assumed by the VDOE.

Questions regarding the Effective PreK-3 Models for Virginia's Schools Institute should be directed to Bev Winter, Virginia ASCD, at [bwintervascd@gmail.com](mailto:bwintervascd@gmail.com) ✉ or by telephone at 434-466-7466.

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