



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

**DATE:** November 30, 2018  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Appalachian Support for Specialized Education Training (ASSET)**

The Virginia Department of Education, in partnership with Radford University, is excited to share with you the Appalachian Support for Specialized Education Training (ASSET) professional development program for teachers and administrators.

All ASSET training is online and self-paced. Participation in the professional development program can take place anytime and anywhere and can be taken at a pace that best suits one's busy life. We know that educators are working with a wide range of learning needs in their classrooms and may not have the time to dig through a wide range of practices in order to figure out what works. The ASSET team has handpicked the most effective tools and resources from the Institute of Educational Sciences (IES) What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) practice guides.

The ASSET team's goal is to share practical and simple strategies that will help educators reach all of their students. The ASSET team has also partnered with simSchool to create simulations that reflect the challenging range of students in the classroom. Educators will be able to practice using the strategies and tools prior to implementing them in the classroom. As educators demonstrate mastery of these techniques, they will earn badges that can be shared with colleagues and students.

As educators complete the micro-credentials and earn badges, they will also earn professional development points for licensure renewal and graduate credit on their transcript.

The ASSET program is funded through the U.S. Department of Education Supporting Effective Educator Development Grant (SEED) Program, and there is no cost for schools in Appalachia for this professional development program in inclusive practices.

Teachers and administrators are currently being recruited for the first micro-credential. To learn more about this exciting program and reserve a spot, please visit [Radford ASSET](#).