



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: November 30, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Virginia's Statewide Inclusion Action Plan Update**

As part of the Virginia Department of Education's Statewide Inclusion Action Plan introduced in [Superintendent's Memorandum #043-18](#), dated October 27, 2017, which described efforts to enhance the inclusive practices for students with disabilities in Virginia a new webpage has been developed. The [Inclusive Practice webpage](#) has been designed to provide information and resources to assist in the development of school and community-based programs for students with disabilities, especially those with more significant academic and behavior needs to have greater access to inclusive education with their peers in general education settings.

Two of the highlights of the site are the posting of the "Inclusive Practice Partnership Project" products and the announcement of the opening of the 2018-2019 "Excellence in Co-Teaching" Demonstration Sites.

- The Inclusive Practice Partnership Project: The Inclusive Practice Partnership Project was designed as a professional development model to support inclusive education while recognizing and promoting the sharing of resources and expertise of schools and teams who have demonstrated successful inclusive practices within the school and community. Sixteen division teams were selected and have developed videos, guidance documents, websites and blogs. Several of the products have been posted on the site and additional products will be added on an on-going basis.
- The Excellence in Co-teaching Initiative: During the 2017-2018 school year, co-teachers and building level administrators were instrumental in providing professional development opportunities and assisting in resource development for co-teachers with approximately 70 site visits and the e-workshops, entitled "[Real Co-Teachers of Virginia](#)" received more than 3,000 online visitors. In addition, the teachers in this initiative provided over 80 professional development presentations on co-teaching in their schools, divisions and professional conferences, served as distance mentors, as well as developed sample lesson plans including the [Co-teaching Mathematics Instructional](#)

[Plans - 2016 SOL](#). Visits to a regional site can be scheduled through the regional Training and Technical Assistance Centers (TTAC).

In addition, the site provides additional resources, including links to outside resources, other guidance documents and announcements of upcoming events and resources of interest. For additional questions, contact Dr. Teresa Lee, Coordinator for Special Education Instructional Services at Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 371-8283 or Ms. Deborah Johnson, Specialist for Students with Intellectual Disabilities at Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 371-2725.

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