



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: December 7, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

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

SUBJECT: **Competitive Grants for Praxis Assistance to Support Racial Diversity Among Provisionally Licensed Teachers Seeking Full Licensure in Virginia**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is seeking grant proposals to provide Praxis assistance for provisionally licensed teachers of color seeking full licensure in Virginia. Grant applications are due January 11, 2019. The grants, up to \$10,000 for Fiscal Year 2019, are to subsidize test fees and the cost of tutoring for provisionally licensed teachers of color seeking full licensure. School divisions, teacher preparation programs in public institutions of higher education, public school divisions partnering with teacher preparation programs in private institutions of higher education, or nonprofit organizations in the Central Virginia (Region 1), Hampton Roads (Region 2), and Northern Virginia (Region 4) regions may apply.

A Taskforce to Diversify Virginia's Educator Pipeline was established in early 2017. In partnership with the National Governor's Association, the Taskforce was charged with developing recommendations to increase diversity in Virginia's teaching workforce. The lack of racial diversity among our current educator workforce is significant. Currently, non-white students make up 49 percent of Virginia's student population, but only 17 percent of the state's teachers are non-white. The Commonwealth's student body is becoming more diverse each year, widening this disparity over time. Virginia's challenges with teacher diversity are reflective of broader national trends and are compounded by the disproportionate racial composition of our teacher pipeline. Comprised of educators, division superintendents, human resource professionals, higher education teacher preparation program administrators, and state level policy staff, the Taskforce completed its work and presented its priority recommendations to the Governor, the Secretary of Education, and the State Superintendent on August 8, 2017. One of the Taskforce's recommendations was to support provisionally licensed candidates in obtaining full licensure, to include additional Praxis preparation. This grant opportunity, provided by a

\$50,000 appropriation from the General Assembly, is an outgrowth of this recommendation by the Taskforce.

For additional details, refer to the attached ***Grant Application for Praxis Assistance to Support Racial Diversity Among Provisionally Licensed Teachers Seeking Full Licensure in Virginia.*** If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Patty S. Pitts, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure, at (804) 371-2522 or Patty.Pitts@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/psp

Attachment:

[Grant Application for Praxis Assistance to Support Racial Diversity Among Provisionally Licensed Teachers Seeking Full Licensure in Virginia \(Word\)](#)