



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 14, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Training Opportunity - Critical Decision Points for Families of Children with Disabilities

Parents and caregivers have certain goals in mind when their children go to school. Regardless of whether or not their children have disabilities, all parents want them to learn, explore, and experience as much as they possibly can. Parents strive for their children to complete their public education, obtain a diploma, and be fully prepared to move on toward their chosen path, whether that is immediate employment, higher education, or something else. In order for your child to achieve these goals, there are certain decisions that you, as a parent, will have to make along the way. Some of these decisions will occur as early as infancy. Therefore, to ensure that parents have the knowledge necessary to make informed decisions, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), through grant funding provided by the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities (VBPD), has created a training program entitled *Critical Decision Points for Families of Children with Disabilities*. The purpose of this training program is to assist families in understanding four things: (i) what are the keys to their child's academic success; (ii) what decisions will they need to make regarding their child's educational path; (iii) at what point will they be making these decisions; and (iv) what information will they need so that they can make the most well informed decisions possible for their child?

These trainings are designed for parents of children with disabilities who are currently eligible or being considered for services under the criteria set forth in the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act* (IDEA 2004) implementing regulations or the implementing regulations of Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and for people with disabilities. The first regional trainings are scheduled as indicated below:

October 17, 2018 (Region 7 – Southwest Virginia)

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 121 Village Circle, Bristol, Virginia 24201

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration link:

[Critical Decision Points Parent Training Bristol - Region 7: Eventbrite Registration](#)

October 18, 2018 (Region 6 – Western Virginia)

Location: Hilton Garden Inn, 4500 South Peak Boulevard, Roanoke, Virginia 24018

Time: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Registration link:

[Critical Decision Points Parent Training Roanoke - Region 6: Eventbrite Registration](#)

Additional training programs are currently being scheduled for the following dates and registration information for these dates will be forthcoming:

Region 4 (Northern Virginia) - November 8, 2018

Region 5 (Valley) - November 15, 2018

Region 1 (Central Virginia) - December 10, 2018

Region 2 (Tidewater) - January 16, 2019

Region 3 (Northern Neck/Middle Peninsula) - January 16, 2019

Region 8 (Southside Virginia) - February 5, 2019

This is a cost-free opportunity for up to 100 participants per training session and includes mileage reimbursement and lunch on the day of training for all participants. Lodging is also available the night before the training session for participants travelling more than 60 miles to attend the training but is limited to 25 rooms. As such, requests for lodging will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Therefore, to ensure that VDOE orders enough meals and a rooming list can be prepared in advance of each training, VDOE is requesting that anyone interested in attending these trainings pre-register as early as possible using the registration links noted above. Registration closes on Monday, October 1, 2018, or when all 100 spots have been reserved; whichever comes first.

Participant materials and an agenda will be provided at the training venue. For questions regarding online registration, please contact Lisa Jones. Ms. Jones can be reached via email, at Lisa.Jones@doe.virginia.gov, or via telephone, at (804) 225-2402. General questions regarding these trainings should be directed to Tracy Lee. Ms. Lee can be reached via email, at Tracy.Lee@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone, at (804) 225-3492.

JFL/HM/lj