



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: February 3, 2023

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Seeking Applications for the Grow Your Own Teacher Pilot Program from Fiscal Year 2023 Funding

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is seeking applications for a pilot program that provides grants to low-income high school graduates who attended an institution of higher education in the Commonwealth and subsequently teach in a **high-need public school in the school division in which they graduated from high school.**

In fiscal year 2023, the General Assembly appropriated \$240,000 to provide grants of \$7,500 per academic year for up to four years to selected teachers. Grant awards are subject to available funding.

Attachment A contains the application packet with detailed instructions. In order to be considered for selection, applicants must submit either a completed Initial VDOE Grow Your Own Teacher Form (**Attachment B**) or a Continuing VDOE Grow Your Own Teacher Form (**Attachment C**).

All initial applicants will be evaluated by the process established by each Superintendent's Region to select regional nominees. Each Superintendent's Region will determine its own process to select up to four regional nominees based on the guidance in the attached application packet (**Attachment A**). All continuing applicants will be evaluated by the process established by the Virginia Department of Education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

All applications must be received **no later than 4 p.m. on March 17, 2023** via email to Shawna.LeBlond@doe.virginia.gov. Please note: Teachers may not apply individually to the Grow Your Own Teacher pilot outside of the established application process.

For questions regarding the Grow Your Own Teacher Pilot Program, please contact Shawna LeBlond, Grants Manager, at (804) 692-0172 or Shawna.LeBlond@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/JJ/sl

Attachments:

- A. [Application Packet for the Grow Your Own Teacher Pilot Program](#) (PDF)
- B. [Initial Teacher Form](#) (Word)
- C. [Continuing Teacher Form](#) (Word)