



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

May 12, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) Cohort 4 Application**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) invites school divisions to apply for Cohort 4 of the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) which is a coordinated, tiered approach to improving educational outcomes through a continuum of evidence-based academic, behavioral, and mental wellness supports for all students. Through this initiative, the VDOE will provide training and technical assistance to school divisions in the implementation of VTSS, with an initial emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Participation in Cohort 4 is open to all Virginia school divisions not currently participating in a cohort.

The VTSS provides a framework for organizing evidence-based practices to address the continuum of student needs in a school. Professional development will be provided to support implementation of evidence-based practices with fidelity. The VTSS includes both the approaches of Response to Intervention (RtI) and PBIS.

The goal is to enable schools to establish learning environments characterized by positive behavior and fidelity of instruction to impact student outcomes. This initiative is funded through the School Climate Transformation Grant (SCTG) [*Building and Expanding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports within the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports*; PR/Award number: [S184F140020](#)].

Divisions interested in participating in Cohort 4 should review the application instructions (Attachment A) and submit a completed application (Attachment B) no later than Monday, June 19, 2017. Divisions interested in learning more about the application process should attend the Cohort 4 Application Webinar on Tuesday, May 30, 2017, at 2 p.m. Those interested in participating in the webinar are directed to complete the registration at: <https://redcap.vcu.edu/surveys/?s=WNLEKTTJ3W>.

Questions regarding the Cohort 4 application process or the application webinar event should be directed to Mrs. Maribel Saimre, School Psychology Specialist, via email at [Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov); telephone (804) 692-0396, or Dr. Tom Manthey, VTSS Coordinator at [Tom.Manthey@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Tom.Manthey@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-4024.

SRS/TCM/nlc

Attachments:

- A. [VTSS Cohort 4 Overview and Application Instructions](#) (PDF)
- B. [VTSS Cohort 4 Application](#) (PDF)
- C. [VTSS Division Exploration Activities](#) (PDF)

