



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: August 11, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Announcing Governor McAuliffe's Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Education**

On behalf of the Department of Education I am pleased to announce that Governor Terence R. McAuliffe is seeking nominations for the inaugural Governor's Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Education. These awards recognize outstanding education professionals, teams of professionals, community partnerships, schools and divisions for excellence and achievement in a variety of categories. Nominations are open to individuals, groups, schools, and local school divisions. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

I encourage you to consider nominating an individual, school based team, school or school leader, division or community organization that is making a positive impact on education in your community. Nominees must be employed by or a formal partner of a Virginia public school or school division. If nominating a team of individuals or collaborative partnership, the nomination must illustrate strong collaboration with public education partners.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Innovation in Education;
- Community Partnerships and Collaboration;
- Supporting School Readiness;
- Preparing Students for the New Virginia Economy; and
- Closing the Achievement Gap.

The winners will be notified in early October and recognized at an awards ceremony in Richmond. To submit a nomination and to review complete nomination requirements, visit: <http://education.virginia.gov/excellence-and-innovation-in-education-awards/> . For further information please contact Holly Coy, Deputy Secretary of Education, Office of the Governor, at holly.coy@governor.virginia.gov. Completed nominations must be submitted by close of business on September 22, 2017.

SRS/LDW