# Virginia Department of Education-Sponsored Content Teaching Academies at James Madison University

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) will sponsor the following content teaching academies June 26-29, 2023, at James Madison University (JMU). The academies are designed to enhance the outcomes of students with disabilities and promote inclusive practices. Registration for the academies may be accessed online at [JMU Content Teaching Academy 2023](https://jmu.irisregistration.com/Form/CTA2023).

## June 26-27, 2023

* **Co-Teaching for Elementary Reading and Mathematics Teachers Academy**

The VDOE is seeking elementary teachers, with their co-teaching partners, who co-teach mathematics and reading to participate in this academy. The focus will be on improving content understanding, pedagogical strategies, collaboration/co-teaching strategies, and specially designed instruction in mathematics and reading. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Kristin Williams-Faus, Mathematics and Special Education Specialist, at [Kristin.Williams-Faus@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kristin.Williams-Faus@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2016.

* **Instructional Practices for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities Academy**

This academy is designed for educators and professionals who teach and support students with significant cognitive disabilities and will provide strategies, instructional resources, and make-and-take materials to support the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning instruction for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. A $200 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Deborah Johnson, Intellectual Disabilities Specialist, at [Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:deborah.johnson@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 371-2725.

* **Secondary Transition Academy**

This is a two-day academy designed for educators implementing secondary transition planning and services. Sessions will address the secondary education indicators   
(1- Graduation, 2- Dropout, 13- Individualized Education Program (IEP) Compliance in Transition, and 14- Post Secondary Outcomes); IEP development; transition assessment; and access to resources. Participants will also tour the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, a unique resource in Virginia that provides comprehensive transition assessment. A $200 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Marianne Moore, Transition Planning and Services Coordinator, at [Marianne.Moore@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:marianne.moore@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2700.

## June 26-29, 2023

* **Adapted Physical Education Academy**

This academy is intended for K-12 health and physical education teachers and program supervisors. Participants will explore the importance of physical activity and its contribution to physical, emotional, and cognitive development. Additionally, participants will learn about assessment methods, eligibility for services, and instructional design; development of individualized education programs; adaptations, modifications, and the use of assistive technology for physical education; behavior management; collaboration and consultation skills; advocacy and inclusive practices; and family life education, including community and family resources. A $300 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Deborah Johnson, Intellectual Disabilities Specialist, at [Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 371-2725.

## June 28, 2023

* **Intensive Behaviors Academy**

This is a one-day academy designed for general and special educators who support students with intensive interfering behavior support needs. The academy will engage educators in building a deeper understanding of behavior, how to plan and implement behavior instruction, and the high-leverage practices that should be in place to promote a positive learning environment for all. A $100 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Ellen Harrison, Emotional Disabilities Specialist, at [Ellen.Harrison@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.harrison@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2709; or Samantha Gregory, Autism, Intellectual Disabilities and Assistive Technology Specialist, at [Samantha.Gregory@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Samantha.Gregory@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 371-7421.

## June 28-29, 2023

* **Augmenting Mathematics and Special Educator Teams Academy**

This academy is designed for middle school mathematics (grades 6-8) and algebra I   
co-teaching teams. Its focus will be on improving content understanding, pedagogical strategies, co-teaching strategies, and specially designed instruction in mathematics. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Kristin Williams-Faus, Mathematics and Special Education Specialist, at   
[Kristin.Williams-Faus@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Kristin.Williams-Faus@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2016.

* **Unlocking Big Words: Strategies for Decoding Multisyllabic Words Academy**

This two-day academy is designed to address the needs of older students (middle and high schoolers) who struggle with decoding and determining the meaning of multisyllabic words. Participants will learn how to use the principles of syllabication and morphology to build fluency and comprehension in their struggling readers, including those with specific learning disabilities. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Kim Bausum-Brown, Dyslexia and Specialized Reading Specialist, at [Kim.Bausum-Brown@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:kim.bausum-brown@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2080.

* **Speech-Language Pathology Summer Institute**

This academy is a two-day conference-style event where attendees can attend a variety of sessions that address: 1) current therapy concerns using evidence- or research-based methodologies, 2) logistical and/or job-related concerns relevant to school-based speech-language pathologists, and 3) working collaboratively with colleagues across general and special education on shared goals for students with disabilities. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Bonnie English, Related Services, Evaluation and Eligibility Specialist, at [Bonnie.English@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:bonnie.english@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 786-9775.

* **Early Childhood Special Education**

The Building Social-Communication Skills in Young Children with Disabilities Academy is a two-day academy designed for early childhood special education teachers, early childhood teachers, and speech language pathologists who teach preschool-aged children with IEPs. It will provide participants with strategies and instructional resources to explicitly teach social-communication skills by focusing on instruction during naturally occurring opportunities as well as providing planned opportunities to build skills. Participants will learn how to select and implement assistive and instructional technologies to support the needs of students with disabilities so that every preschool child with an IEP can develop functional communication skills. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact Dr. Dawn Hendricks, Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator, at [Dawn.Hendricks@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:dawn.hendricks@doe.virginia.gov), or (804) 225-2675.