



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

April 22, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum Framework Content Teaching Academy (CTA)

I am pleased to announce that the Virginia Department of Education Office of Special Education Instructional Services, in collaboration with James Madison University (JMU), will offer the Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum Framework Content Teaching Academy (CTA). This Academy will provide teachers with knowledge and skills to plan and deliver effective instruction that will enable all students to progress towards positive outcomes. Participants will learn how assessment and curriculum are linked in a continuous cycle that informs instructional decisions and monitors student progress. Strategies will be provided to help teachers implement the preschool curriculum framework into classroom practices.

The Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum Framework Academy is for all early childhood special education teachers serving young children ages two-five. It is also appropriate for early childhood teachers serving students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Early childhood special education and/or early childhood teachers who are a team, teach in the same school, or teach in the same division are encouraged to attend together.

Topics will include:

- Setting high learning expectations for ALL students
- Identifying authentic assessment tools and practices that allow students to demonstrate skills in a variety of ways
- Conducting authentic assessment in the context of classroom experiences and activities
- Interpreting assessment information to identify and prioritize learning needs
- Developing meaningful and measurable IEPs
- Involving families in all aspects of assessment and curriculum design and implementation
- Individualizing instruction through embedded learning opportunities
- Revising instructional practices based on student progress

The CTA will run from June 27 – June 29, 2016, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis with space limited to 50 educators. The Virginia Department of Education will assume the cost of registration, lodging, and meals.

To register and for more detailed information regarding this professional development opportunity, please visit the CTA Web site at <http://www.jmu.edu/contentacademy/>. If you have additional questions, please contact Dr. Dawn Hendricks, early childhood special education coordinator, Office of Special Education Instructional Services, by e-mail at Dawn.Hendricks@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2675.

Link:

- [Early Childhood Special Education Curriculum Framework Content Teaching Academy](#)