



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

June 19, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2015-2016 Academy for New Special Education Directors

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to extend an invitation to any newly hired local director of special education to the [Academy for New Special Education Directors](#). The yearlong Academy will include five two-day workshops in Richmond. The first workshop is scheduled for September 9 - 10, 2015, at the Wingate by Wyndham Hotel in Richmond, Virginia. The September workshop will provide an orientation to the Division of Special Education and Student Services at the Virginia Department of Education, as well as critical technical assistance resources for results driven accountability and other regulatory information. The additional two-day workshops will address relevant topics in-depth for new directors. The schedule for the additional workshops will be disseminated to the Academy participants in August. Each new director will be assigned a veteran special education director as a mentor. A new special education director is defined as one who is new to their position and has not been a special education director in another location or was new after last year's Academy.

If your division has employed a new special education director, please provide his/her name, position/title, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address so that we can invite him/her to participate in this Academy. This information should be provided to Dr. Pat Abrams, director, Office of Special Education Instructional Services. If you have questions, Dr. Abrams can be contacted by phone at (804) 225-2707 or via e-mail Pat.Abrams@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/PA/tc