



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

July 31, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Mathematics and Science Partnership Competitive Program for 2015 Mini Grant Proposals**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the 2015 Mathematics and Science Partnership (MSP) competitive Mini Grant program. For this Mini-Grant, the program will award approximately **\$120,000** in grants for mathematics and science education. Title II, Part B of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965* (ESEA), as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), authorizes the MSP program.

The intent of Virginia's MSP request for proposals (RFP) is to encourage public and private institutions of higher education (IHE) to provide high-quality, school-focused professional development on a sustained basis to teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools. The professional development programs to be funded through the attached RFP (Attachment A) must be designed to ensure that Virginia's students, **especially those in high-needs schools**, are being taught by teachers who have solid academic backgrounds in mathematics and/or science.

The Mini-Grant is a simple grant structure that allows for the expeditious awarding of funds ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 so the grantees will have one year to use the funds. The partnerships must include a mathematics, science, and/or engineering department from at least one institution of higher education (IHE), including community colleges, and **one or more high-needs schools**. The program may include other partners such as additional IHEs, businesses, associations, or organizations. The MSP applicant and the fiscal agent **must** be a school division with a participating school or schools. Additional details about eligibility are outlined in the RFP.

Completed proposals must be received electronically by the VDOE no later than 4 p.m., September 4, 2015.

The deadline for submission of the Intent-to-Submit Form is August 7, 2015. A pre-proposal conference will be conducted at the James Monroe Building in Richmond and via webinar on August 10, 2015. For additional information, please contact Eric M. Rhoades, director, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at [Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Eric.Rhoades@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 786-2481.

SRS/EMR/rt

Attachment:

- A. [2015 Mathematics and Science Partnership Competitive Mini-Grant Program Request for Proposals](#)  
(Word)

