



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

November 23, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: “Hour of Code” – National Computer Science Education Week

The Virginia Department of Education asks that school divisions encourage all teachers from kindergarten through high school to sign their classrooms up to participate in the international Hour of Code that kicks off during National Computer Science Education Week, December 7-11, 2015.

Schools and classrooms are also encouraged to tune in to a live stream of Virginia’s Hour of Code kickoff event at the Science Museum of Virginia. Log on to www.codevirginia.org or <http://nbc12.com/live> on December 7, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., to participate virtually in this event and hear a very special message from Governor Terence McAuliffe to Virginia students.

Computer Science and coding are essential literacy in a modern workplace, with more than 70 percent of STEM-field jobs relying on basic Computer Science knowledge. Hour of Code aims to build a better awareness of the technology and computer science industry in classrooms around the Commonwealth. Visit www.hourofcode.org to access free, easy online material or offline worksheets that introduce students and teachers to the fun activities on the basics of computational thinking, computer science and coding. Computer and non-computer activities for every grade level and experience are also available on the site. Lastly, participating Virginia schools can register to win various prizes.

For more information please contact Chris Dovi at Code Virginia at info@codevirginia.org or by phone at (804) 440-7135.

SRS/LW/jm