



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

April 25, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: 87th Annual Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference & Exposition June 29 – July 2, 2014 (*School Law Clinic, School Data As a Leadership Tool Workshop June 29, 2014*)**

Virginia's only statewide conference for middle level and high school principals is the Annual Virginia Middle and High School Principals Conference & Exposition. For 86 consecutive years the Virginia Association of Secondary School Principals (VASSP) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) have collaborated to develop and enhance middle level and high school administrators' leadership skills, increase their understanding of current educational issues, and expand their knowledge base for success. The Conference will be held June 29 – July 2, 2014, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, Virginia. A cordial invitation is extended to principals, assistant principals, division superintendents, assistant superintendents, directors of instruction, supervisors, college personnel, and administrators of nonpublic middle and high schools to attend.

The theme for this year's conference is "**Igniting the Leadership Engine.**" It represents the power of public schools to address societies' most challenges issues and the principals role in fostering leaders of the future. There will be a conference emphasis on the growing responsibilities of school principals and assistant principals. Although the Commonwealth has policies, metrics, and rubrics in place, school principals and assistant principals need to not only be comfortable in their knowledge of this information, but also be able to implement them effectively, synergistically, and strategically. It is important that school principals set school expectations that incorporate national, state, and local mandates in guiding student achievement, requiring quality instructional delivery and pursuing leadership goals for success. This conference addresses state mandates important to school administrators.

The **Title II, Part A – Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting funds** may be used to support attendance at this conference. The conference program addresses the key principles of professional development for principals. Attending the summer conference will provide participants opportunities to explore their leadership strengths and how they can be enhanced to generate a school culture of performance success.

The **VDOE Colloquium** will address recent state mandates and the school leadership expectations of principals. In addition, the Colloquium will focus on resources and implementation strategies that have been successfully used in schools to improve instruction in the core curriculum areas – mathematics, science, English, and history/social science.

The **Professional Practices Symposium** will focus on exemplary practices that excel in content delivery for students in today's schools. The fast-paced learning environment necessitated by the global economy requires a competitive edge. Principals must understand, appreciate and implement effective performance systems.

Pre-conference activities on Sunday, June 29, 2014, will be held at the Fort Magruder Hotel and Conference Center, 6945 Pocahontas Trail, Williamsburg, Virginia, and will include the ***School Law Clinic*** and ***School Data As a Leadership Tool Workshop***. Learning Labs during the state conference at the DoubleTree Hotel will include pertinent topics identified in the recent statewide *2014 Middle Level and High School Principals Needs Assessment* which include nine (9) strands: 1) School Leadership, Administration, and Management; 2) SOL/Curriculum and Instruction/Remediation; 3) SOA/Accountability; 4) NCLB/AYP/Teacher Quality/LEP/Special Education; 5) Assessment and Data Analysis; 6) Instructional Technology; 7) Student Services and Programs (e.g., school safety, discipline, dropout prevention); 8) Personal (e.g., stress management, time management, health and fitness awareness); and, 9) Educational Law and Policy.

The 2014 summer conference will officially begin with an opening general session at 10 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2014. A preliminary conference program synopsis, Conference At-A-Glance, is provided in [Attachment A](#). The detailed announcement about the general session speakers, workshop presenters, topics, etc., will be sent via VASSP e-mail blast and posted on the Association's website.

The DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel will house all the conference programs. A conference registration form (see [Attachment B](#)) is provided with this memorandum. Please duplicate the form as needed and share this information with persons who would be interested in attending the conference. To take advantage of EARLY REGISTRATION, the registration form must be completed and returned by **May 26, 2014**, to Summer Conference, VASSP, 4909 Cutshaw Avenue, Richmond, VA 23230.

Hotel accommodations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, and we encourage you to return the enclosed accommodations application form (see [Attachment C](#)) as soon as possible. All rooms not confirmed with a reservation by May 26, 2014, will be released.

The hotel accommodation form is to be sent via U.S. Mail directly to the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Only the enclosed official accommodation form will be accepted by the hotel. As in past years, the hotel will not accept telephone requests for room reservations (this includes facsimile), written letters, online, or in-person requests. This procedure helps to assure some degree of fairness so that everyone has an opportunity to receive the conference announcement and respond in a timely fashion.

We look forward to seeing you in June. If you have questions about the conference or desire additional information, please visit the VASSP Web site at [www.vapincipals.org](http://www.vapincipals.org) or call the Association at (804) 355-2777.

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Attachments:

- a. [Conference-At-A-Glance](#) (PDF)
- b. [Early Registration Form](#) (Word)
- c. [Accommodations Application Form](#) (Word)