



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

June 13, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: EducationSuperHighway State Broadband Pricing Project

As outlined in [Superintendent's Memo #116-14](#) dated April 25, Virginia has been selected by [EducationSuperHighway](#) as the first state to implement a new pricing project that will help increase school divisions' access to affordable, high-capacity broadband services. Following Governor Terry McAuliffe's official launch of this initiative at the State Capitol Building on June 3, the data collection period is now open. We look forward to working with you in this critical effort to upgrade our schools.

Cost transparency is the first step toward identifying school divisions that could benefit from more support. Governor McAuliffe, Secretary Karen Jackson, Secretary Anne Holton, and I would like to request the assistance of every division in the Commonwealth to complete this Item 21 data collection. We ask that you take a few minutes to respond to this request by **Friday, June 20**. There are two options for completing this:

Option 1: Ask your Chief Technology Officer, Tech Director, or other division personnel to visit www.item21portal.org, create an account, and enter *all* of your E-rate 2014-15 Priority 1, Form 471 Item 21 attachment data.

Option 2: Identify an individual within your school division who will be responsible for completing this request by August 1. E-mail their name and contact information to gail.warren@doe.virginia.gov.

The window to submit your division's Item 21 data will remain open until August 1, with the goal of collecting information from every school division across the state by this deadline. We will be offering several informational webinars during the coming weeks, the details of which will be posted shortly.

If you have questions, please contact Gail Warren, project coordinator, by telephone at (757) 470-3017 or via e-mail at gail.warren@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/TM/sm