



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

September 26, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Project Graduation Academic Year Academy Grants

As part of the state's Project Graduation initiative, I am pleased to announce a remediation grant opportunity to assist students who need to earn verified credits to complete their diploma requirements. Grant proposals will be accepted from individual school divisions and from partnerships of school divisions within a Superintendents' Regional Study Group.

To reflect the emphases on college and career readiness, increased rigor, and new content of Virginia's Standards of Learning, priority will be given to the following groups of students:

- First priority: Seniors or term graduates lacking verified credits needed to graduate in any core subject, i.e., English, mathematics, history, or science;
- Second priority: Current juniors lacking verified credits in mathematics or English (Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English/reading, or English/writing); and
- Third priority: Current freshmen or sophomores lacking a verified credit in mathematics (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II).

Proposals must address the needs of the above-mentioned students who have received passing grades for the specific courses but have not passed the required Standards of Learning (SOL) assessment to earn a verified credit. Proposals must include remedial instruction for students in Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, English: Reading, English: Writing, science, and/or history.

Each Superintendents' Regional Study Group may apply to receive a Project Graduation Academic Year Academy Grant. The standard model is for one school division to act as the fiscal agent for each grant; however, several sites within the region may serve students. In addition, more than one grant application from a region will be accepted. Individual school divisions are eligible to apply, although each division may participate in only one grant application. Funding amounts will vary based upon the number of students served and the scope of services rendered. With the increased rigor in English, mathematics, and science Standards of Learning and assessments, additional funding may be available to support larger cohorts of students.

The Academy must focus on student instruction that is based on data derived from diagnostic instruments and previous assessment results for each student. Data from previous Academies should be used to identify effective strategies and practices. Assessment records for participating students must be properly identified as Project Graduation participants. All Standards of Learning tests administered to Project Graduation students must have the "Project Graduation" field populated within PearsonAccess for tests associated with the remediation. The final grant awards will be based upon approval of the proposal, including all required forms and signatures, and meeting the submission deadlines. The funds will be disbursed on a cost reimbursement basis using the

Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA) program. The Instructions (Attachment A), Application (Attachment B), and Final Evaluation Report (Attachment C) for the Project Graduation Academic Year Academy 2014-2015 grant can be found at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/graduation/project_graduation/index.shtml. **The completed grant applications should be sent electronically by October 24, 2014, to Kim Powell at Kim.Powell@doe.virginia.gov.**

Please note that Project Graduation Academic Year Academy 2014-2015 grants are funded from the fiscal year 2015 Lottery funds as provided in the state budget adopted by the 2014 General Assembly. Full funding for grants is dependent on the fiscal year 2015 Lottery revenues. Cost reimbursement of the approved expenditures will occur after the submission of reimbursement requests to the Department of Education. Lottery funds will be available for reimbursement in January 2015.

If you have questions regarding this grant opportunity, please contact Kim Powell, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at Kim.Powell@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3609.

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Attachments:

- A. [Instructions for Project Graduation Academic Year Academy 2014-2015](#) (PDF)
- B. [Application for Project Graduation Academic Year Academy 2014-2015](#) (Word)
- C. [Final Evaluation Report for Project Graduation Academic Year Academy 2014-2015](#) (Word)