

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA Department of Education

January 11, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Day – February 6, 2013

The Virginia Department of Education, in cooperation with the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) and the Alliance for Excellent Education, is pleased to announce February 6 as Digital Learning Day. This event is part of a national campaign designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students; explore how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve; and build the skills students need to succeed in college, career, and life. It also provides an opportunity to highlight the use of digital learning resources such as the Department of Education's contract with Hampton Roads Educational Telecommunications Association, Inc., to develop eMediaVA, a digital media distribution platform that provides teachers and students with digital content correlated to Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOL) at no cost; the multi-touch Economics and Personal Finance iBook two-volume set that meets the Virginia SOL for Economics and Personal Finance; and other Department of Education technology initiatives.

All education stakeholders are invited to register for Digital Learning Day. Participants will have access to toolkits outlining ideas and ways to plan their celebration as well as updates, informational videos, webinars, and other resources.

A national town hall meeting will be held on February 6 to highlight and celebrate participants across the nation. VSTE will host a series of webinars that highlight the work of the recently announced regional educational technology leadership award winners. To view the webinars on Digital Learning Day, go to http://www.vste.org/index/learn/webinar. Schools, libraries, community programs, and classrooms are invited to showcase how they are using digital media to improve teaching and learning.

To learn more about this event or to sign up to participate, go to http://www.digitallearningday.org/registration/.

Questions regarding Digital Learning Day should be directed to Mark Saunders, educational technology specialist, at mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 786-0307.

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