



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

October 18, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Announcement of Planning/Implementation Grants for Establishment of Regional Governor's Health Sciences Academies

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce Planning/Implementation Grants in the amount of \$10,000 each for establishment of a regional Governor's Health Sciences Academy. Priority consideration will be given to applicants from Superintendents' Regions 5, 6, and 7. Technical assistance will be provided by VDOE during the development of the proposal.

The \$10,000 grant will be awarded in two payments. Upon receipt of the *Intent to Submit a Planning/Implementation Grant Proposal* and approval of the informative abstract, the VDOE will issue the first payment of \$5,000 for detailed planning and program development. The academy partnership must submit their completed proposal to the Board of Education. Upon approval by the Board, the second payment of \$5,000 will be issued. The planning/ implementation grants are provided from state funds and must be expended by June 6, 2014.

The Governor's Health Sciences Academy actively partners with employers to design and provide high-quality, dynamic programs. These programs are delivered through comprehensive courses of study that prepare students for successful transition to postsecondary education and careers. As the medical and health fields continue to advance with technology, new job opportunities will emerge and the continued shortage of healthcare providers will drive current and future trends for high-demand jobs. The Governor's Health Sciences Academy consists of specialty programs that must include:

- partnerships of public school divisions or partnerships of high schools and/or CTE centers within a division, business and industry, health care institutions, and higher education institutions, and may include local government, including local work force and economic development entities;
- rigorous academic content with career and technical instruction; and
- the five career pathways within the Health Sciences Career Cluster: Therapeutic Services, Diagnostic Services, Health Informatics, Support Services, and Biotechnology Research and Development.

School divisions are invited to complete the [*Governor's Health Sciences Academy Intent to Submit a Planning/Implementation Grant Proposal 2013-2014*](#), provide an informative abstract describing the essential elements of the academy, and submit the proposed planning budget. The intent packet of information is due to the VDOE by December 10, 2013.

The schedule for establishing an Academy will consist of detail planning and program development in 2013-2014; at least two of the five well-articulated health sciences career pathways must be fully implemented and available to students in 2014-2015. The remaining three health sciences pathways must be fully articulated and

implemented within the next three years. Detailed information is available in the [*Establishing a Governor's Health Sciences Academy Guidance Document*](#).

If you have questions or need assistance with the application process, please contact George Willcox, academy coordinator, Office of Career and Technical Education Services, by e-mail at CTE@doe.virginia.gov or telephone at 804-225-2052.

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