



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

November 15, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Application for 2014 Innovative Learning Teams**

The Department of Education is seeking Virginia teachers to work in small *innovative learning teams* to identify resources to support the enhanced scope and sequence for mathematics. These resources will be delivered as iTunes U courses on Virginia on iTunes U.

The intent of these courses is to provide instructional support for Virginia teachers in areas that are not adequately addressed or are missing from traditional textbooks or curriculum. Each team of three to five teachers will focus on one course and will work with an assigned instructional designer to create the components. The courses will be developed over the 2013-2014 school year and be ready to launch for the 2014-2015 school year. Team meetings will be conducted online.

All participating teachers should have access to an iPad to assist in developing the course. Training on using the iPad will be provided to all teachers in January 2014. Finished courses will be available to teachers and students at no cost, and the Virginia Department of Education will own the copyright.

Benefits for teachers include:

- Contributing to an innovative teaching and learning resource that will support fellow teachers throughout Virginia
- Learning the latest techniques for developing and implementing quality educational experiences for students
- Networking with forward-thinking colleagues
- Earning recertification points, pending local approval

Innovative learning team members will be chosen based on the following criteria:

- Teacher's experience and content area expertise
- Enthusiasm for exploring new ways of teaching and learning
- Instructional experience with personalizing learning for students

Teachers accepted to be part of these teams will be expected to work outside their regular school hours on this project, coordinate and cooperate with other team members, and meet all group deadlines. Teachers should be well versed in their specialty and experienced with various teaching pedagogies and techniques. They should be enthusiastic about developing new ways to help students learn material that may be challenging.

Reimbursement will be provided as follows:

- Teachers participating in face-to-face training in January will be reimbursed for lodging, meals, and mileage in accordance with state guidelines.
- Teachers participating on an innovative learning team will receive a \$200 honorarium.

All individuals who wish to serve on the innovative learning teams must complete the application form in Attachment A. Completed applications are due to the Office of Digital Innovations and Outreach by Wednesday, December 11, 2013, and should be sent by e-mail to [debbie.staughton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:debbie.staughton@doe.virginia.gov). Applications will be reviewed and teams will be finalized by Monday, January 6, 2014.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Weller, instructional technology specialist, by telephone at (804) 225-2825 or via e-mail at [jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov).

PIW/TM/jw

Attachment:

- a. [Application for 2014 Innovative Learning Teams](#) (Word)