



**#116-22**

**Commonwealth of Virginia**  
**Virginia Department of Education**  
Superintendent's Memo #116-22

DATE: June 3, 2022  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Virginia Leads - Community of Practice Opportunities for Superintendents and Aspiring Leaders**

As part of Virginia's American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER) funding, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has awarded a grant to the College of William & Mary to assist with the recruitment and retention of school division superintendents. Through a collaborative partnership between VDOE, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), the Commonwealth Learning Partnership, and the College of William & Mary, **Virginia Leads** is designed as a one-year grant initiative to retain current public school division superintendents and develop future "inspiring" educational leaders to become division superintendents.

Through this grant, VASS is leading and facilitating several **communities of practice for superintendents** through the **Superintendent Success Initiative**. Personalized professional learning opportunities for superintendents include:

- **Cognia Leadership Circles:** All VASS members will be registered to access personalized professional learning and support at a national level (i.e., Solutions Circles, Weekly Leader Chats, Online Leadership Community, Think Tank, and In-person Events).
- **Regional Learning Communities:** The eight superintendent study groups will be supported in regional and relevant professional learning.

- **Seminars:** VASS members will be provided the opportunities to participate in two seminars during 2022-23; (1) School Board, Community, and Superintendent Relationships and (2) Student Learning Loss.

Superintendents will receive further information regarding the **Superintendent Success Initiative** from VASS.

The Commonwealth Learning Partnership is leading and facilitating the **community of practice for those who intend to pursue future leadership roles, including the superintendency**. Participants will work in teams to develop their capacities for leading innovative practices using the collaborative network structure, the **Virginia Leads Innovation Network (VaLIN) 4.0**.

- A cohort of 30 teams, committed to advancing their leadership careers, will be selected to acquire the competencies defined by the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, the Profile of a Virginia Education Leader, and the Professional Standards for Education Leaders (PSEL).

The **VaLIN 4.0** application window is June 10-29, 2022. More information on the application process and fee structure can be found on the [Commonwealth Learning Partnership website](#).

### For more information

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Amy Griffin, VDOE Education Consultant, at [Amy.Griffin@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Amy.Griffin@doe.virginia.gov) or Dr. Joan Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Teacher Education and Licensure at [Joan.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Joan.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov).

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