The Virginia Department of Education and [Virginia Ed Strategies](https://virginiaedstrategies.org) extend an invitation to all school divisions to fill available teacher spaces in the Professional Learning by CHOICE Community. [CHOICE](https://virginiaedstrategies.org/projects/choice/), funded by a $10.8m Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant from the United States Department of Education (USED), is an innovative professional learning model being developed by Virginia Ed Strategies and [partners](https://virginiaedstrategies.org/projects/choice/choice-team/) to empower high school math, science, computer science, and CTE teachers to self-select professional learning aligned to their goals and experience ongoing support from an online community of peers and resources statewide.

Through this initiative, 15 or more teachers from each division can participate in CHOICE and therefore have access to $1500 annually (for two years) to pay for the professional learning they choose while collaborating within a supportive virtual environment to implement new innovative practices. Instructional administrators are also invited to participate in a virtual administrator Community of Practice (CoP) to receive program assistance and to grow professionally alongside their teachers. The ultimate goal of CHOICE is to build the sustainable teacher effectiveness capacity of 1600 or more teachers across Virginia and improve student engagement, achievement, and preparation for high-demand STEM careers. There is no cost to the school or division for teachers and administrators to participate.

Virginia Ed Strategies is now recruiting high schools and 1000+ teachers for the CHOICE Cohort 1 slated to begin in late summer 2022.

* Math, science, computer science, and CTE teachers from public high schools (and associated centers/Governor's schools) in Virginia are eligible
* Time commitment over the two-year period will vary by teacher depending on needs and selections
* Recertification points will be awarded for project activities and the training teachers attend
* High-quality professional learning opportunities available to CHOICE teachers are offered by known, trusted providers in Virginia and beyond
* Types of training formats available include:
  + - In person and virtual
    - Asynchronous and live
    - Webinars, workshops, institutes, etc.
    - Micro credentials
    - Training leading to industry credentials/certifications
    - Credit-bearing college courses
    - State and national conferences
* Virtual professional learning community (PLC) and Communities of Practice (CoPs) provide ongoing support for all teachers and their administrators

The next steps for teachers and schools to get involved in CHOICE are noted below:

1. Live information sessions are being held via Zoom for administrators and teachers. Visit the [CHOICE website](https://virginiaedstrategies.org/projects/choice/join-choice/) to register for a session or view a recent recording.
2. School leaders at the high school or division level should complete the [administrator interest form](https://jmu.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=prVDydKUKjQ%3D) if one has not already been submitted.
3. ALL interested teachers should complete the [teacher interest form](https://jmu.questionpro.com/a/TakeSurvey?tt=ckKM5bBMydM%3D) ASAP and preferably before the end of the school year. (If more than 15 teachers from the division are interested, have them ALL complete the form as we will offer additional slots to divisions if some do not take full advantage of their allotted spaces.)
4. Administrators can stay informed about what teachers from each school and division have indicated interest in CHOICE by clicking [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18tc171AaU1QVFbPC5UU_j2-nZpHifsoJIdikntKjDEc/edit?usp=sharing) to view a sortable, live listing of all teachers who have completed the interest form to date. (To sort by division, click to select *Division* at the top of column D, then click on *Data* in the sheets menu at the top of the screen, then *Sort Sheet by Column D*. Keep in mind that some teachers may abbreviate the division name so be sure to scan the whole sheet. If you have trouble accessing this listing, contact Virginia Ed Strategies for assistance.)
5. Teachers who complete the interest form will be invited to attend a briefing session (offered multiple dates/times in June) to fully understand the program and make a formal commitment to participate.
6. Division and high school administrators will be contacted in the coming weeks regarding next steps to finalize school and division commitments to CHOICE.

### For more information

For more information about CHOICE on the [website](https://virginiaedstrategies.org/projects/choice/) including [FAQs](https://virginiaedstrategies.org/projects/choice/choice-faqs/). Administrators wishing to ask questions and further discuss participation in CHOICE may contact Jennifer Stevens, President and CEO of Virginia Ed Strategies and Project Director for CHOICE, by email at [jennifer@vaedstrategies.org](mailto:jennifer@vaedstrategies.org) or by telephone at (434) 222-8754.