# Superintendent’s Memo #007-21

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: January 15, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Announcing the 2021 #EdEquityVA Webinar Series Open to all Virginia Educators

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce the 2021 #EdEquityVA Webinar Series. This year’s series is strategically focused on sharing best practice and practical resources that advance the critical competencies necessary to achieve education equity in Virginia: Courageous leadership, Compassionate family and student engagement, Continuous reflection, Cultural responsiveness, and Curriculum reframing. Together these competencies make up the [EdEquityVA Compass](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/edequityva/navigating-equity-book.pdf#page=22) or Virginia's Equity 5 Cs. Through the diverse expertise of our partners and presenters, our goal is to offer relevant and engaging sessions to Virginia educators that align to the Department’s priorities outlined in Virginia’s equity framework, [Navigating EdEquityVA](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/edequityva/navigating-equity-book.pdf).

The EdEquityVA Webinars are open to all Virginia educators, education leaders, and education stakeholders. The Office of Equity and Community Engagement has increased the topic offering for this series to meet the diverse needs of educators across the state. A significant portion of the webinars will feature educators and leaders in school divisions across the Commonwealth who will join subject matter experts to share the policies and practices that impact equity outcomes for Virginia students.

See below for the full 2021 EdEquityVA Webinar Series schedule. Registration links will be posted on the [Virginia is for Learners website](https://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva-webinar-series/) as they become available. All webinars will take place from 3:00-4:30 PM. Please note that topics and presenters are subject to change.

| **Date** | **Topic and Corresponding Equity 5 C** | **Details** |
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| January 26 | **Collaboration for Equity**: A Look at How Region II School Divisions Lead Together for Equity  *(Courageous Leadership)* | **Dr. LaQuiche Parrott**, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Virginia Beach City Public Schools  **Dr. Jennifer Clayton**, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Administration, The George Washington University  **Dr. Sheli Porter**, Director of Secondary Teaching and Learning, Chesapeake Public Schools  **Alaina Trott**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Chesapeake Public Schools  **Camille Harmon**, Principal of Bayside Middle School, Virginia Beach City Public Schools |
| February 9 | **Supporting Younger (PreK-6) Multilingual Learners:** Strategies to Support Multilingual/English Learner Students in Remote/Hybrid Learning Environments  *(Compassionate Family and Student Engagement, Courageous Leadership)* | **Dr. Jessica Costa**, English Learner Instructional Specialist, Virginia Department of Education |
| February 23 | **Schools as Racial Justice Engines:** Trauma Informed Care for Racial Trauma and Strategies to Support the Unique Needs of Black Students in Schools  *(Compassionate Family and Student Engagement, Culturally Responsive)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| March 2 | **Read Across America Day:** A Culturally Responsive Approach to Literacy | Presenter To Be Announced |
| March 9 | **Culturally Relevant Teaching (CRT):** Strategies to support CRT Practice Across Academic Subject Areas  *(Culturally Responsive)* | **Maria D. Burgos**, Supervisor of Global Learning & Culturally Responsive Instruction, Prince William County Public Schools |
| March 23 | **Grading for Equity:** A Look at Alternative Grading Practices that Center Equity  *(Continuous Reflection)* | **Carl Rush,** Equity and Community Engagement Coordinator, Winchester Public Schools  **R. Erin Comninaki,** Instructional Technology Resource Teacher, Lynchburg City Schools  **Dr. Maria Pitre-Martin**, Division Superintendent, Petersburg City Public Schools |
| April 13 | **Postsecondary Transition:** Intentional and Strategic Best Practices that Allow ALL Students to Access Postsecondary Opportunity  *(Continuous Reflection)* | **Sarah Bazemore**, School Counseling Specialist, Virginia Department of Education  **Erin McGrath,** Assistant Director of College Access & PK-12 Outreach, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia |
| April 27 | **Continuous Reflection for Equity:** Data Review for Equity, A Deep Dive into One of Virginia’s Equity 5 Cs  *(Continuous Reflection, Courageous Leadership)* | **Leah Walker**, Director of Equity, Virginia Department of Education  **Roy Echeverria**, Director of Assessment, Reporting & Program Evaluation, Frederick County Public Schools  **Dr. Jennifer Piver-Rena**, Director of Research, Virginia Department of Education |
| May 11 | **Embracing and Incorporating Student Voice:** Incorporating Diverse Student Perspectives into Strategic Planning  *(Compassionate Student and Family Engagement, Culturally Responsive, Continuous Reflection)* | **Lottie M. Spurlock**, Director of Equity, Loudoun County Public Schools |
| May 25 | **Equity in CTE Programs:**  *(Continuous Reflection, Courageous Leadership)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| June 8 | **Building Literacy for Multilingual Learners:** Best Practices in Remote Reading Instruction and Recommendations for Developing Language and Literacy at Home for English Learners  *(Curriculum Reframing, Compassionate Student and Family Engagement, Courageous Leadership)* | **Dr. Jessica Costa**, English Learner Instructional Specialist, Virginia Department of Education  **Carmen E. Kurek**, Elementary English/Reading Specialist, Virginia Department of Education |
| June 22 | **Equitable School Discipline:** The Criminalization of Black Girls in School and How to Stop It  *(Compassionate Student and Family Engagement)* | **Presented in Partnership with EdTrust**  **Maribel Saimre**, Director of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education  **Leah Walker**, Director of Equity, Virginia Department of Education  **Dr. Jennifer Piver-Rena**, Director of Research, Virginia Department of Education |
| July 6 | **Culturally Inclusive Curriculum Audits:** Rethinking Curriculum with a Focus on Including Latinx, Virginia Indian, and API Narratives  *(Curriculum Reframing)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| July 27 | **Culturally Relevant Instruction Beyond History and Social Science:** Incorporating the Principles of Culturally Responsive Teaching into Math and Science Instruction  *(Culturally Responsive, Curriculum Reframing)* | **Dr. Anne Petersen**, Science Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education  **Myra Thayer,** Science Specialist, Virginia Department of Education  **Tina Mazzacane**, K-12 Mathematics Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education |
| August 10 | **Affirming & Inclusive School Culture:** How to Cultivate Welcoming School and Classroom Environments for ALL Students that is Centered in Equity  *(Compassionate Family and Student Engagement)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| August 24 | **Supporting Transgender Students:** An Overview of the Transgender Model Policy and Strategies to Support Trans Students  *(Compassionate Student and Family Engagement)* | **Quyen Duong**, Student Services Specialist, Virginia Department of Education  **Side by Side** |
| September 14 | **Equity in Gifted Education:** Strategies to Improve Access to Gifted Education, Increase Student Support, and Improve Identification of Historically Marginalized Students  *(Continuous Reflection)* | **Dr. Joy Lawson Davis**, Expert Scholar in Diversity & Equity in Gifted & Advanced Learner Programs |
| September 28 | **Closing the Opportunity Gap with Work Based Learning:** A Case Study of Successful Implementation  *(Curriculum Reframing, Courageous Leadership, Continuous Reflection)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| October 12 | **Inclusive Instructional Practices:** Adopting Anti-racist Instructional Practices in the Classroom  *(Courageous Leadership, Culturally Responsive)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| October 26 | **Intra-school Segregation:** Addressing Within School Segregation Caused by Racially Segregated Classes and Disproportionality within Advanced Academic Programs  *(Continuous Reflection, Courageous Leadership)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| November 9 | **EL Retention:** Best Practices for Retaining English Learner Students | Presenter To Be Announced |
| November 23 | **Rigor for ALL Students:** Increasing Opportunities for Deeper Learning  *(Curriculum Reframing)* | Presenter To Be Announced |
| December 7 | **Culturally Responsive Family Engagement:** Principles for Successful Family/School Partnerships  *(Compassionate Student and Family Engagement)* | Presenter To Be Announced |

For updates regarding the #EdEquityVA Webinar Series you can visit the [Virginia is for Learners website](http://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva-webinar-series/) or subscribe to the [EdEquityVA Monthly Newsletter](http://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva/edequityva-monthly-newsletter/). As a reminder, you may access recordings of webinars in the 2020 series on our [website](http://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva-webinar-series/). Please direct all inquiries regarding the EdEquityVA Webinar Series to the Office of Equity and Community Engagement by email at [edequityva@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:edequityva@doe.virginia.gov).

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