



#038-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo

DATE: February 5, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **VASCD Offers Teachers Micro-credentials Aligned with the Profile of a Virginia Classroom**

The Department of Education is pleased to announce that the Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (VASCD) has developed a set of micro-credentials to advance teaching skills that promote deeper learning among students and align with the Profile of a Virginia Classroom. Incrementally over the next year, VASCD plans to make available 17 micro-credentials. This first set relates to learning-oriented classroom communities.

Micro-credentials provide evidence of teacher proficiency in skills that leverage deeper learning for students. To earn a micro-credential, teachers complete a performance task and submit evidence of proficiency that meets the criteria specified on a rubric. The evidence is reviewed by an external assessor. Upon meeting all criteria, teachers receive a digital badge from Virtual Virginia and a Certificate of Completion from VASCD recommending 30 professional development renewal points. License holders should receive preapproval for activities for renewal.

Micro-credentials can be valuable for individual teachers, particularly those who consistently demonstrate proficiency on the standard teacher evaluation measure and desire documentation of advanced skills. They also are useful as a tool for building capacity and expertise across a school or division.

Enrollment is open through February in four micro-credentials that relate to the following learning-oriented classroom cultures:

- Facilitating Respectful Student-to-Student Conversations;
- Building Students' Academic Discussion Skills;
- Incorporating Peer Review and Feedback; and
- Building Classroom Community.

Any of these micro-credentials can be earned while teaching in remote, hybrid, or in-person environments. They may be particularly helpful during the return to in-person instruction when teachers are working to strengthen student interactions and classroom culture.

For more information

For additional information regarding these micro-credentials, including costs, [please visit the VASCD website](#). If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Beverly Winter, VASCD Events Coordinator, at (434) 466-7466 or bev@vascd.org.

JFL/psp