



#126-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #126-21**

DATE: May 7, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **VDOE Grant to Support Student Performance Analytics for the 2021-2022 School Year**

As another reminder, the VDOE announced approximately 18 months ago that we would be building a data analytics system during the 2021-2022 school year for school divisions to use in the future at no cost and that the state-wide contract for PowerSchool's Performance Matters Analytics tool will expire on **June 30, 2021**. The state-funded contract that is expiring only pertains to the Performance Matters Analytics tool (also known as the PowerSchool Early Warning System or Baseball Scorecard); any other PowerSchool products (SIS, LMS, and Assessment Generator) that you may use and have a division-based contract with PowerSchool for will not be affected. VDOE is well underway with the development of the new data analytics system - LASER (Learning Analytics to Support Education and Reporting), and the goal is that by the end of the 2021-2022 school year, LASER will contain both an Early Warning System and an Accreditation Tracking System. LASER will be an intuitive tool to turn your real-time student data into usable and actionable information through data visualization and reporting to support your students and schools.

As announced last year, the VDOE will be providing grants to school divisions that need assistance to continue data analytics services during the 2021-2022 school year, especially as divisions identify COVID-19 learning gaps. Attached to this memo is an application for your division to apply for grant assistance to procure a data analytics system during the 2021-2022

school year. Applying for this one-time grant would mean that your division consents to provide VDOE with evidence of use of the selected analytics product and agrees to return funds if the product is not being sufficiently used between the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year and the time at which the division adopts LASER.

To apply for the grant, please review the assurances, follow the instructions, and return the **SPA Grant Application** to Paul.Corbett@doe.virginia.gov no later than May 31st. Award announcements and clarification of next steps are anticipated to be announced in mid June. Grant funds will be made available after July 1, 2021.

For more information

Please contact by email at Paul.Corbett@doe.virginia.gov or by phone at (804) 225-2039 if you have any questions.

JFL/PC

- A. Attachment: [SPA Application](#) (DOCX)