



#320-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #320-21**

DATE: December 3, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Onward and Upward: Supporting Literacy and Mathematics Grant Request for Proposals from Institutions of Higher Education**

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) awarded funds to states for elementary and secondary education through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) was awarded approximately \$2.1 billion through the ESSER III Fund. From the ESSER III funds, the VDOE will award over \$34 million to public two- and four-year Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) through several competitive grants to improve literacy and mathematics learning across Virginia. IHE are encouraged to partner with other IHE, professional education organizations, and local education agencies in developing applications for one or more of these grant opportunities.

The *Onward and Upward: Supporting Literacy and Mathematics* grant opportunity for IHE will provide support for K-12 literacy and mathematics instruction to address unfinished learning across Virginia through the development of high-quality, evidence-based instructional resources, materials, and professional development. The Virginia LEARNS stakeholder workgroup, comprised of school division teachers and leaders, parents, educational partners, staff from the Office of the Secretary of Education and VDOE, identified the priorities including:

Literacy:

- to ensure that all Virginia K-12 students have opportunities to develop their understanding of communication and critical thinking;
- to improve literacy across Virginia by increasing knowledge of teachers, leaders, families, and students; and
- to enhance the quality of literacy instruction through support programs, resources, and materials; core partners are English, reading, literacy, and education departments of higher education institutions.

Mathematics:

- to ensure that all K-12 students have the opportunities and readiness to learn rigorous mathematics across Virginia; and
- to increase knowledge of teachers, leaders, families, and students by enhancing the quality of mathematics instruction through support programs, curriculum development, resources, and materials that further mathematics learning across all grade levels.

The due date to submit the completed application is **Friday, January 28, 2022 by 5 p.m.**

Completed requests for proposals should be submitted via email to

instruction@doe.virginia.gov.

A Pre-application Meeting (webinar) will be held on **December 9, 2021**. Please be sure to register for the meeting here: [Pre-application meeting registration](#).

For more information

Questions about the application packet or budget-specific questions should be directed to Maecy Richmond, Grants and Reports Manager, at Maecy.Richmond@doe.virginia.gov.

Questions about the Literacy and/or Mathematics grant opportunities should be directed to the Department of Learning and Innovation at instruction@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/MFB/mer

- A. Attachment: [Onward and Upward: Supporting Literacy and Mathematics Grant Request for Proposals from Virginia Institutes of Higher Education](#) (DOCX)
- B. Attachment: [Detailed Scope of Work for Program Areas](#) (DOCX)