



#163-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #163-22**

DATE: July 29, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Fall 2022 Cohort Journey into Teaching Academy: A Professional Development Initiative for Selected Second Year Provisionally Certified Special Education Teachers**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is announcing a **Fall 2022 cohort** of the Journey into Teaching Academy. This is a yearlong professional development initiative for teachers completing their second year of teaching at the end of the 2021-2022 school year (SY) and entering their third year of teaching during the 2022-2023 SY as a provisionally licensed special education teacher. The Journey into Teaching Academy has been designed as a program to provide teacher support beyond mentorship in an effort to enhance the retention, as well as the overall performance of provisionally licensed special education teachers

This initiative (October 1, 2022-October 1, 2023) will include a two-hour virtual orientation on **October 15, 2022**, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., followed by a fall weekend academy on **October 29 and November 19, 2022**, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The location of the fall academy will be announced during orientation. Teachers will also be given the opportunity to participate in other VDOE-sponsored summer academies. Additional seminars and workshops will be announced during the 2022-2023 SY to provide support in preparation for the teacher licensure assessment as well as any other needed areas. Stipends will be provided for participation during non-contractual hours.

The Journey into Teaching Academy is designed to be a competitive application process. Priority will be given to teachers from those divisions who have been identified by the VDOE as needing additional assistance and support. Approximately 50 participants will be selected for Cohort 5. Selected participants will receive a \$1,000 stipend for successful completion of the fall academy and any other relevant activities. Stipends will be provided for participation during non-contractual hours.

The selection process requires completion of the [Teacher Application](#) and the [Administrator's Recommendation form](#). A committee will review the applications and select participants based on the following criteria:

- All candidates must have successfully completed or will complete two years of successful teaching as documented in an administrator's recommendation and/or evaluation;
- All candidates must hold an active, provisional Virginia teaching license;
- All candidates must be actively engaged in taking coursework to satisfy licensure requirement;
- All candidates must be continuing their contract with their current school division for the 2022-2023 school year; and
- All teachers who wish to participate must submit the Journey into Teaching Academy Teacher Application and an Administrator's Recommendation form must be completed for the teacher.

Completed applications and recommendations are due to the VDOE by **September 23, 2022**. Once applications are reviewed, notification and information on upcoming events will be sent via email by October 1, 2022, to selected participants. Applicants not chosen for this fall cohort will also be notified by October 1, 2022.

For more information

Please contact Dr. Teresa Lee, Instructional Coordinator, Office of Special Education Instructional Services, by email at Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 371-8283, or Kristin Williams-Faus, Mathematics and Special Education Specialist, by email at Kristin.Williams-Faus@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-2016.

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