



#226-22

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #226-22

DATE: September 23, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Call for Applications for the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group**

The Virginia Department of Education is seeking applications to serve on the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group, a new advisory working group on all matters relating to the implementation of the [Virginia Literacy Act](#) (VLA).

The Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group will be essential to the successful implementation of the VLA. With the passage of the VLA in the 2022 General Assembly, Virginia is taking the lead nationwide to improve early literacy outcomes for Virginia's youngest learners. The Virginia Board of Education, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), is responsible for the development of the essential tools, resources, technical assistance and funding that will be needed to meet the goals within the VLA.

The role of the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group will be to regularly review and advise the Department on programs, systems and regulations related to the VLA and related efforts.

The Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group is anticipated to be a short term working group, with the establishment of the work group taking place in December 2022, and the conclusion of the work group taking place on or before December 2024. The first meeting will

take place in December 2022, with the expectation that there will be quarterly meetings going forward. All meetings will take place in Richmond or hosted virtually.

The preferred Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group membership categories are noted below. Please note that the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group is expected to reflect the diversity of Virginia's early public education system and the organizations that work to support early literacy for all learners.

- Representative from an approved Educator Preparation Program with expertise in Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction or Science-Based Reading Research from a college or university in Virginia
- Representative of a community based organization that supports early literacy in Virginia
- Representative of a community based organization that supports out of school time
- Representative of K-3 teachers with expertise in Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction or Science-Based Reading Research
- Representative of reading specialists working in public schools
- Representative of middle school english language arts specialists working in public schools
- Representative of Chief Academic Officers (or similar position) with expertise in Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction or Science-Based Reading Research
- Representative of parents of children in K-3 attending public schools
- Representative of a child care, family day home, or preschool program
- Representative of students with disabilities and dyslexia
- Representative of students who are English learners
- Representative of elementary school principals
- Representative of local school divisions or school boards

In addition to the above listed members, the Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group will include: 1) a representative appointed by the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, 2) a representative from the Virginia General Assembly, 3) a representative from the Virginia Board of Education, and 4) a representative from the Early Childhood Advisory Committee.

Educators, administrators, system leaders, advocates, associations and community members are invited to submit applications for these positions. Applicants who speak a language other than English are encouraged to apply.

Applications may be submitted by completing the attached form. Please send the completed form to VLA@doe.virginia.gov.

All applications must be received by Friday, October 28, 2022.

For more information

Questions regarding the Virginia Department of Education's Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Work Group may be emailed to VLA@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/JC/lh

- A. Attachment: [Virginia Literacy Act Advisory Application Form](#) (DOCX)