# Virginia Department of Education-Sponsored Content Teaching Academiesat James Madison University – Information Summary

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is sponsoring the following content teaching academies on June 24-27, 2024, at James Madison University (JMU). The academies are designed to provide professional development to participating Virginia educators to enhance the outcomes of students with disabilities using high-quality instruction and to promote inclusive practices. Registration for each academy may be accessed on the [JMU Content Teaching Academy 2024 webpage](https://www.jmu.edu/coe/cta/index.shtml).

## June 24-25, 2024

* **Co-Teaching Elementary Reading/Math (CTERM)**

The CTERM (Grades K–5) is a two-day academy designed for elementary general and special educator co-teaching teams. The focus will be on enhancing student outcomes by improving content understanding, pedagogy, collaboration, co-teaching, and networking. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact any of the following academy leads: Dwana Cooper, Coordinator of Specially Designed Instruction, at Dwana.Cooper@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8693; or Christine Mooney, Specialized Reading and Dyslexia Specialist, at Christine.Mooney@doe.virginia.gov or
(804) 750-8656; or Regina Mitchell, Mathematics and Special Education Specialist, at Regina.Mitchell@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 418-4722.

* **Instructional Practices for Teachers of Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities (IPT)**

The IPT is a two-day academy designed for teachers teaching an adapted curriculum to students with significant cognitive disabilities. This opportunity will provide teachers with strategies and instructional resources to support their instruction using the Virginia Essentialized Standards of Learning (VESOL). A $200 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Deborah Johnson, Intellectual Disabilities Specialist, at Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8645.

* **Secondary Transition Academy (STA)**

The STA is a two-day experience designed for educators who develop and implement individualized education programs (IEPs) at the secondary level. Day one will address secondary education indicators (Indicator 1: Graduation, Indicator 2: Dropout, Indicator 13: Transition IEP Compliance, and Indicator 14: Post-Secondary Outcomes) including assessment and access to resources. Day Two will be an in-person site visit and tour of the Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center, a unique resource in Virginia that provides comprehensive transition and vocational assessments. A $200 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact any of the following academy leads: Marianne Moore, Special Education Coordinator of Transition Planning and Services, at Marianne.Moore@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8113; or Rebecca Ceja, Transition Specialist, at Rebecca.Ceja@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 371-4280.

* **Speech-Language Pathology Summer Institute (SLPSI)**

The SLPSI is a two-day event designed for Virginia public school speech-language pathologists. These sessions will allow participants to 1) enhance their knowledge of and skills in providing evidence- or research-based therapy and/or instructional practices; 2) improve collaboration with colleagues across general and special education on shared goals for students with disabilities; and 3) clarify their role in the special education process. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Bonnie English, Related Services, Evaluation and Eligibility Specialist, at Bonnie.English@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8187.

## June 24-27, 2024

* **Adapted Physical Education (APE)**

The APE is a three-and-a-half-day academy designed for physical education teachers and health and physical education program supervisors. Participants will enhance their understanding of how to develop effective inclusion strategies for the Physical Education Standards of Learning objectives, enhance learning outcomes, and promote successful outcomes for students with disabilities, including their peers. A $400 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact any of the following academy leads: Deborah Johnson, Intellectual Disabilities Specialist, at Deborah.Johnson@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8645; or Sheila Jones, Driver Education Specialist, at Sheila.Jones@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 418-4684.

## June 26-27, 2024

* **Augmenting Mathematics and Special Educator Teams (AMSET)**

The AMSET is a two-day academy designed for secondary mathematics general and special educator school teams working together to enhance student outcomes focusing on improved content understanding, pedagogy, collaboration, co-teaching, and networking. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact any of the following academy leads: Dwana Cooper, Coordinator of Specially Designed Instruction, at Dwana.Cooper@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8693; or Regina Mitchell, Mathematics and Special Education Specialist, at Regina.Mitchell@doe.virginia.gov or
(804) 418-4722.

* **Intensive Behavior Academy (IBA)**

The IBA is a two-day experience designed to support general education and special education teachers in advancing their understanding of behavior and discovering proactive approaches to educating students with behavior support needs. This academy will unlock the “why” of behavior, providing participants with a deeper clarity of the reasons behind prosocial and persistent interfering behaviors. Participants will explore the power of implementing proactive strategies to prevent interfering behavior and promote prosocial behaviors, build capacity for selecting and providing explicit instruction for behavior skills, and become equipped with methods for collecting and analyzing data to inform decision-making. A $200 stipend will be paid to participants upon verification of successful completion of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Samantha Gregory, Coordinator of Specially Designed Behavior Intervention and Improvement, at Samantha.Gregory@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 774-4323.

* **Unlocking Big Words (UBW): Strategies for Decoding Multisyllabic Words**

The UBW:Strategies for Decoding Multisyllabic Words is a two-day academy designed to address the needs of middle and high school students who struggle with decoding and determining the meaning of multisyllabic words across the content areas. Participants will learn how to use the principles of syllabication (dividing words into syllables) and morphology (how words are formed) to build struggling readers’ fluency and comprehension. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Christine Mooney, Specialized Reading and Dyslexia Specialist, at Christine.Mooney@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8656.

* **Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy (OTPT)**

The OTPT is an academy designed for Virginia public school occupational and physical therapists. Information shared will provide attendees with the knowledge and skills to
1) work collaboratively with colleagues across general and special education teams; 2) enhance practices related to evaluation, goal writing, data collection, and progress monitoring; and 3) develop a plan to increase team capacity and promote individual professional development. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Bonnie English, Related Services, Evaluation and Eligibility Specialist, at Bonnie.English@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8187.

* **Sensory Disabilities Education Leaders (SDEL)**

The SDEL is a two-day experience designed for educators and administrators working in leadership roles that support special education programs serving children who are deaf/hard of hearing, blind/visually impaired, and deafblind (Grades Pre-K–12). The sessions will focus on strengthening the collaboration among special educators, general educators, and related service providers for the effective delivery of specially designed instruction and related services to students with sensory disabilities. A $200 stipend will be provided to each participant who attends all sessions of this academy. For additional information or questions, contact the academy lead, Wanda Council, Specialist for Deaf/Hearing Impaired, Blind/Visually Impaired, and Deaf-Blind, at Wanda.Council@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 750-8614.