# Superintendent’s Memo #276-19

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: December 6, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: #GoOpenVA Coming in January 2020

For the past three years, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has been working with ~~s~~chool divisions, businesses, organizations, and other stakeholders to develop a platform for sharing open education resources (OER). We are pleased to announce that in January of 2020 VDOE’s OER platform, #GoOpenVA, will officially launch.

The platform and its resources will support important agencywide initiatives such as the 5 C’s, the Profile of a Virginia Graduate, and Equity. #GoOpenVA is intended to continually grow into a vibrant community of sharing by providing the space and tools for educators to exchange their expertise and talent with each other.

In anticipation of the launch, #GoOpenVA has been seeded with OER from trusted partners including Eureka/Great Minds, EL Education, the Digital Public Library of America, TeachDesign, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Additionally, Virginia educators have already begun to add Virginia SOL-aligned materials to the platform. To date, over 10,000 resources have been added to the platform.

Our vision is that the platform will support teachers as they endeavor to approach education in a different way, supporting deeper learning, and increasing personalization. The bulk of the resources on the platform will come from educators all over Virginia as they curate, customize, and create resources to share with their fellow educators. In order for #GoOpenVA to be successful, some important best practices should be considered.

OER Best Practices:

* Provide time for educators to collaborate and share internally. #GoOpenVA can be used as a tool for this work but concentrated time to work together will be key.
* Encourage educators to create learning resources with accessibility in mind. Faculty and staff may need some professional learning opportunities regarding Universal Design and other guidelines to be comfortable with this process.

Tips for Maximizing the Impact of the #GoOpenVA Platform:

* Have the Technology Department work with VDOE and ISKME (our contractor) in early January 2020 to enable teachers to use Single Sign On to the #GoOpenVA platform, through the use of Clever (preferred) or Google.
* Work with division technology leads to create LTI connections within division Learning Management Systems.
* Consider OER licensing/attribution guidelines for your division such as those you may already have for curriculum development activities. Establish a policy that materials created by faculty and staff during their regular contract hours and/or using division resources, such as laptops, be openly-licensed for the purpose of sharing with other educators.
* Encourage teachers to take the 4-hour self-paced online Virtual Virginia course, Introduction to OER, to become familiar with the platform, open resource licensing, tips for curation, editing, and adding resources. Teachers who take the course receive a certificate of completion and could use this work towards recertification.
* Encourage your school-based technology leadership and personnel such as ITRTs and Librarians to conduct blended learning training sessions on OER using the “Workshop in a Box.” These materials will be launched in conjunction with #GoOpenVA.

We will be providing more information in the coming weeks. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Weller at (804) 225-2825 or [jean.weller@doe.virginia.org](mailto:jean.weller@doe.virginia.org)); or Tina Manglicmot at (804) 786-2481 or [tina.manglicmot@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:tina.manglicmot@doe.virginia.gov)).

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