



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: March 30, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven M. Constantino, Ed.D., Acting Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Augmenting Mathematics and Special Educator Teams for Middle School and Algebra I in the General Education Classrooms**

The Virginia Department of Education Office of Special Education Instructional Services in consultation with the Office of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and in partnership with James Madison University Content Teaching Academy, are sponsoring Augmenting Mathematics and Special Educator Teams (AMSET) Academy at the University's summer 2018 Content Teaching Academy (CTA). The two day academy, June 27-28, 2018, is designed for mathematics and special educator school teams working together to enhance student outcomes, especially for students with disabilities, by focusing on improving content understanding, pedagogical strategies, collaboration strategies, and networking within the co-taught classroom. Sessions will feature evidence-based practices for teaching mathematics to students with learning difficulties, including the use of hands-on materials for integers and algebra and understanding fractions and decimals. An additional focus will be on the language of mathematics, such as mathematical symbols and vocabulary and effective problem solving for routine and instructional word problems. Using and connecting mathematical representations and facilitating discourse in a mathematics classroom through the lens of the 2016 *Mathematics Standards of Learning* will be emphasized.

Again this year, the department is seeking middle school Mathematics 6-8, and Algebra I co-teaching teams to participate in the academy. The Virginia Department of Education will assume the cost of registration, stipend (\$200), lodging, and meals for all public school participants accepted into the program. Teachers from schools not meeting the state benchmark for accreditation in mathematics will be given priority. School divisions are strongly encouraged to cover travel expenses for division participants as this cost is not assumed by the Department; however, this is not a requirement of the program.

For more detailed information regarding this program and how to register, please visit the [CTA website](#) ➔. If you have additional questions about the program, please contact Dr. Teresa Lee, Instructional Coordinator, Office of Special Education and Instructional Services, at Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov ✉ or by telephone at (804) 371-8283 or Ms. Tina Mazzacane, Mathematics Coordinator, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics at Tina.Mazzacane@doe.virginia.gov ✉ or by phone at (804) 225-4849.

SMC/TL/tc