



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: **2018-2019 Application for the Virginia Middle School Teacher Corps**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the Virginia Middle School Teacher Corps (MSTC) application for the 2018-2019 school year. The MSTC program continues to focus on reinforcing the quality of mathematics instruction by providing **recruitment and/or retention** incentives (\$5,000) for effective mathematics teachers in schools with middle grades (grades six, seven, and/or eight) where mathematics is an area identified for improvement.

The VDOE is initiating the application process to provide time for eligible school divisions to apply for funding, but the appropriation of funds for the program for the 2018-2020 biennium is contingent on the funding being approved in the final budget adopted at the Special Session of the General Assembly scheduled to begin April 11, 2018.

For the 2018-2019 MSTC program, all middle-grades schools that: (1) are “Warned in Mathematics”; (2) are identified as “Priority Schools,” where mathematics is an area identified for improvement; or (3) have mathematics pass rates at or below 75 percent, as indicated on the [2017-2018 School Accreditation Ratings](#), are eligible to participate.

School divisions can access and use MSTC funds to help **recruit** and/or **retain** up to two mathematics teachers for each of these eligible schools through the streamlined MSTC application, due to VDOE by 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2018. A list of the MSTC eligible Middle-Grade Schools may be found in Attachment B of this memorandum.

School divisions with eligible middle-grades schools may use the MSTC program to help: (1) fill mathematics teacher vacancies with qualified mathematics teachers; or (2) retain effective teachers in their current, eligible schools. School divisions may apply for funding to provide annual salary differentials of \$5,000 for each of three years for qualified teachers. Teachers receiving the MSTC incentives must occupy full-time teaching positions that reach students at risk of failure in mathematics. Qualified MSTC teachers must:

1. hold an active, five-year Virginia teaching license;
2. hold an appropriate teaching endorsement to teach middle school mathematics;
3. have at least two years of experience in full-time teaching of middle or high school mathematics;
4. have a minimum of 15 semester hours of mathematics coursework; and
5. have demonstrated success in improving students' academic achievement in mathematics.

Please note that the second and third years of the three-year school award are contingent upon continued funding each year from the Virginia General Assembly. Each MSTC teacher's eligibility is based on his/her receiving a performance evaluation of “proficient” or above each year of the three years of teacher eligibility. The local school division has the authority to replace a MSTC teacher at its discretion with another mathematics teacher who meets the MSTC qualifications.

- A. The VDOE will notify each school division as to the status of its MSTC application before the end of May 2018, **pending final approval of the Fiscal Year 2019 state budget**. At that point, those school divisions with MSTC awards will be able to begin using the MSTC salary differential as an incentive to

recruit new or **retain** existing qualified mathematics teachers for the 2018-2019 school year in eligible schools.

- B. After the VDOE receives the Teacher Background and Assurances form that is due on **Friday, September 7, 2018**, which specifies the names of the selected, qualified, mathematics teachers for each of the awarded schools, the VDOE will make official, hardcopy **Grant Award Notifications** in October 2018.

School divisions **may** require additional duties of MSTC teachers to assist their eligible schools' mathematics programs. Additional information about the MSTC program and how to apply may be found in the 2018-2019 Middle School Teacher Corps Application, Attachment A of this memorandum.

If you need additional information or have questions about the MSTC program, please contact Kim Powell, Grants and Reports Manager, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, by email at Kim.Powell@doe.virginia.gov ✉ or by telephone at (804) 225-3609; or Tina Mazzacane, Mathematics Coordinator, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, by email at Tina.Mazzacane@doe.virginia.gov ✉ or by telephone at (804) 225-4849.

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Attachments:

- A. [Middle School Teacher Corps Program Application, 2018-2019](#) (Word)
B. [Middle School Teacher Corps Eligible Middle-Grade Schools, 2018-2019](#) (Word)