# Superintendent’s Memo #145-20

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: June 18, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: *#GoTeachVA: Strengthening Teaching and Learning through the Virginia New Teacher Support Program*

James Madison University’s College of Education is partnering with the Virginia Department of Education to deliver a Virginia New Teacher Support Program (VaNTSP) that will provide induction support with instructional coaching and professional development to first- and second-year teachers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VaNTSP will match first- and second-year teachers with an instructional coach who will focus on professional knowledge, instructional planning, instructional delivery, assessment of and for learning, and professionalism. In addition, a menu of professional development sessions will be offered in each of these areas using Zoom.

Beginning August 2020 through May 2021, first- and second-year teachers will have contact with their instructional coach at least every other week for the entire school year. Professional development workshop options will begin in September 2020, and occur twice a month to ensure multiple opportunities and choices based on the specific needs and interests of teachers.

Comprehensive induction programs increase teacher retention and effectiveness.Providing classroom teachers with instructional coaching, mentoring, and targeted professional learning during these early years significantly increases the likelihood that these early-career teachers will both stay in the profession and increase their effectiveness.

The VaNTSPwill provide this service at no cost to teachers, schools, or school divisions, and will be customized to your specific division’s needs. Space is limited to 250 teachers during the 2020-2021 school year. To secure spots for your first- and second-year teachers, please contact John Almarode at [almarojt@jmu.edu](mailto:almarojt@jmu.edu). For more information, visit the [VaNTSP website](https://www.jmu.edu/coe/vantsp/index.shtml).

JFL/LAH/jr