# Superintendent’s Memo #290-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 30, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Training Opportunity – Military Family Symposium: Empowerment Through the Use of Virginia Special Education Resources

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Department of Special Education and Student Services (SESS), in collaboration with the Department of the Navy, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic is offering a one-day Military Family Symposium training opportunity for military families of students with disabilities and those who provide them with educational supports. The Symposium will be convened virtually using the ZOOM platform on Saturday, November 14, 2020, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Logging onto the ZOOM platform will begin at 8:30 a.m. The Symposium will open with remarks from the Secretary of Education, the Honorable Atif Qarni; Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, the Honorable Kathleen T. Jabs; a representative from the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic command group; and Navy Spouse of the Year, Michelle Norman.

Additionally, Symposium participants will receive information on: (i) current federal and state educational laws affecting military families (i.e., parental consent, remote registration, enrollment flexibility when residing in temporary housing, and open enrollment policy for those residing in military housing); (ii) special education dispute resolution options, with an emphasis due process hearing procedures; and (iii) post-secondary transition programming. The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) and the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Center for Family Involvement (CFI) will provide briefings on the services that they provide specifically for military families. There will also be briefings on the resources and supports available through the State Special Education Advisory Committee (SSEAC), a school division’s local special education advisory committee, and the parent resource centers located throughout the Commonwealth. There are also two sessions set aside to address questions directly from the Symposium participants.

There is no registration fee for participation in this Symposium. Space is limited for this symposium; as such, registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. All participants **must pre-register** using the following link: [Military Symposium November 2020](https://doe-virginia-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_A5q56py-QJmf8D4Zxo4e9g). Upon acceptance of their registration, attendees will receive an email with additional login information to access the Symposium on November 14, 2020.

For questions regarding online registration, or to register by phone, interested participants should contact Lisa Crafton, at (804) 225-2402. General questions regarding the Symposium should be directed to Hank Millward, Director, VDOE, by email, at Hank.Millward@doe.virginia.gov, or via telephone, at (804) 371-0525.