



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 26, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

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

SUBJECT: Institute on Dyslexia

In order to provide technical assistance to local school divisions as they implement the “dyslexia advisor” legislation, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Special Education Instructional Services will provide a professional development opportunity for participants on the assessment, prevention, and instruction of reading problems, such as dyslexia. This training opportunity is one activity that should be considered part of a division’s broader professional development plan to address the “dyslexia advisor” requirement.

The training will be December 10-11, 2018, at the Virginia Crossings in Richmond, Virginia. Each Virginia school division is invited to send one staff member. It is strongly recommended that the staff member selected is the person who is fulfilling the role as dyslexia advisor for your division. The conference can accommodate 100 individuals.

Dr. David Kilpatrick, author of *Essentials of Assessing, Preventing, and Overcoming Reading Difficulties* and *Equipped for Reading Success*, will provide our keynote address and present on topics such as the gap between reading research and classroom practice, how we teach reading and why it does not work with struggling readers, and the concept of orthographic mapping in the development of skilled word reading. Breakout sessions will include topics such as, but not limited to, assessing and developing advanced phonemic awareness skills and the principles and content of structured literacy. There will be an opportunity for dyslexia advisors to participate in discussions with their regional colleagues.

The VDOE will assume the cost of registration, breakfast, and lunch both days of the conference.

Also:

- Lodging and dinner per diem will be provided for individuals who travel more than 75 miles one way for the evening of December 10;
- Lodging and dinner per diem will be provided for individuals who are traveling more than 120 miles one way for both the December 9 and 10;

- School divisions are strongly encouraged to cover travel expenses, such as mileage, for division participants as this cost is not assumed by the Department; however, this is not a requirement of the program;
- Registration is currently open and will close on November 23, 2018. To register, please visit the [2018 Dyslexia Registration](#) web page.

If you have additional questions about this opportunity, contact Kim Bausum-Brown, Dyslexia and Specialized Reading Specialist, Office of Special Education and Instructional Services, at Kim.Bausum-Brown@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 225-2080.

JFL/kbb