# Superintendent’s Memo #018-20

[](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/index.shtml)  
**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

DATE: January 24, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: School Divisions of Innovation – Application for Division

## Designation 2020

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce the School Divisions of Innovation Application for Division Designation 2020. The 2017 Virginia General Assembly approved House Bill 1981 (Greason), directing the Virginia Board of Education (Board) to develop regulations for the designation of School Divisions of Innovation (SDI). To be eligible for designation, a local school board would submit a plan of innovation according to Board criteria as presented in the regulations. Per this directive, the Board initiated the regulatory review process beginning on September 28, 2017. The proposed regulations went through a two-year regulatory process and the Regulations Governing the Designation of School Divisions of Innovation  
[*8VAC20-760-20. School Division of Innovation Designation*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter760/section20/)went into effect on September 19, 2019.

[Attachment A](018-20a.docx) (Word) contains the Application for School Divisions of Innovation Designation 2020. The application and selection timeline are as follows:

February 10, 2020 Intent to Submit

February 20, 2020 Preapplication Meeting

March 16, 2020 Application Due Date

April 13, 2020 Preliminary Notification

April 23, 2020 Recommendation to the Board for Approval

June 18, 2020 Board Recognition

School divisions are encouraged to apply for this unique designation as a School Division of Innovation (SDI). Pursuant to an approved plan of innovation, a SDI shall be exempted from selected regulatory provisions and permitted to adopt alternative policies for school administrators, teachers, and staff to meet the diverse needs of students. School divisions earning the designation as a SDI will receive a competitive priority preference for the 2020 K-12 Innovation Grant (K12IG), formerly known as High School Program Innovation grants (HSPI), and are eligible to receive a grant of $50,000 for a year of planning and another $50,000 to be used for implementation. Divisions will also receive a logo designation to be used on any marketing or communication messaging, receive recognition by the Board of Education at the **June 18, 2020** Board Meeting, be included in a VDOE Press Release, and be highlighted on the VDOE and Virginia is for Learners websites.

If you have questions, please contact Michael Bolling, Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Innovation, at [instruction@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:instruction@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-2034.

JFL/MFB/oml

### Attachment:

1. [School Divisions of Innovation Application for Division Designation 2020](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2020/018-20a.docx) (Word)