



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

January 20, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Day 2017

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in cooperation with the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) and the Alliance for Excellent Education, is pleased to announce February 23, 2017 as Digital Learning Day. This event is part of a national campaign designed to celebrate innovative teaching; highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students; explore how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve; and build the skills students need to succeed in college, career, and life. It also provides an opportunity to highlight the use of digital learning resources such as the Virtual Virginia Mathematics lessons in eMediaVA, GoOpenVA, and other Department of Education technology initiatives.

All education stakeholders are invited to review the Digital Learning Day resources. Participants will have access to ideas and ways to plan their celebration as well as updates, informational videos, webinars, and other resources.

Several activities will be held on February 23rd to highlight and celebrate participants across the nation. VSTE will be partnering with the VDOE to provide a full day of virtual events for Digital Learning Day 2017. Through webinars, Mark Saunders, Director of Technology and Virtual Learning, along with Bobby Keener, Chief Technology Innovations Officer, will provide updates on current digital learning projects.

VSTE will host an evening webinar beginning at 8 p.m. that will highlight the VSTE 2016 award winners talking about educational technology past, present, and future. Throughout the day, VSTE will be featuring students from Metro Richmond area classrooms talking about how they learn, how they use technology to learn, and showing some of the innovative projects they are working on in their classrooms. VSTE is partnering with the local Greater Richmond Area Educational Technology Consortium (GRAETC) to provide these classroom visits.

To access the full schedule for the VDOE/VSTE Digital Learning Day 2017 events, go to <http://vste.org/digital-learning-day-february-23-2017/> for more information. To learn more about Digital Learning Day, go to <http://www.digitallearningday.org>.

Questions regarding Digital Learning Day should be directed to Jean Weller, Instructional Technology Specialist, Office of Technology and Virtual Learning, at jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2825.

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