COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

February 10, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Development of K-12 *Computer Science Standards of Learning*: Seeking Information and Comments from the School Community

During the 2016 session of the Virginia General Assembly, legislation was enacted to amend § 22.1-253.13:1 of the *Code of Virginia* (Standard 1.Instructional programs supporting the Standards of Learning and other educational objectives) to include "***computer science and computational thinking, including computer coding***" into the Standards of Learning.

At the February 23, 2017 Board of Education meeting, the Department of Education will present a timeline for the development of *Computer Science Standards of Learning*. It is anticipated that the standards will be completed by November 2017.

An important part of the development process for the *Computer Science Standards of Learning* is the solicitation of comments from teachers, administrators, curriculum supervisors, computer science educators, and others who have expertise with computer science content. Please inform personnel in your school division and other stakeholders that they may comment on the standards development at the Virginia Department of Education's Web site http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/computer-science/index.shtml.

The Department of Education is also seeking nominations from division superintendents for individuals who are qualified and available to serve on committees to aid in developing the *K-12 Computer Science Standards of Learning* during the spring and summer of 2017. Nominees should be teachers, principals, administrators, content specialists, or others who have expertise with the content area. The committees are a Steering Committee and a Teacher Review Committee.

Steering Committee members developing the *K-12 Computer Science Standards of Learning* will be asked to participate in a three-day meeting in Richmond, Virginia, as well as attend virtual meetings to develop draft standards. Subsequent to the initial development of draft standards, the committee members will convene again for an additional three-day meeting in Richmond to work with a Teacher Review Committee to review and adapt the draft standards. Committee members who are not under contract with a school division may receive a stipend, and those under contract may receive recertification points, pending the approval of their school divisions. The Department of Education may cover expenses for mileage, meals, and lodging related to the review process.

Teacher Review Committee members reviewing the *K-12 Computer Science Standards of Learning* will be asked to participate in a three-day meeting in Richmond to review and adapt the draft standards. Committee members who are not under contract with a school division may receive a stipend, and those under contract may receive recertification points, pending the approval of their school divisions. The Department of Education may cover expenses for mileage, meals, and lodging related to the review process.

All individuals who wish to serve on one of the *Computer Science Standards of Learning* committees must submit an application through the web-based process, *Instruction Committee Application Processing System* (ICAPS). The application will require a professional reference and division approval. The procedure

for submitting the web-based application is available at https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/icaps. Completed applications for placement on the Steering Committee are due to the Virginia Department of Education through the ICAPS process by February 24, 2017. Completed applications for placement on the Teacher Review Committee are due to the Virginia Department of Education through the ICAPS process by March 3, 2017. Committee members will be selected on the basis of expertise, experience, and balanced regional representation.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mark Saunders, Director of Technology and Virtual Learning, Office of Technology and Virtual Learning, by email at mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804)786-0307; or Meg Foley, Special Projects Coordinator, Office of Technology and Virtual Learning, by email at meg.foley@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804)786-0877.

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Attachment:

   A. Schedule For The Development Of Computer Science Standards Of Learning (Word)