



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

March 24, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Creating Connections to Shining Stars: Virginia's Collaborative Early Childhood Birth through Five Conference**

Creating Connections to Shining Stars (CCSS) is a collaborative effort between many state agencies and early childhood programs in Virginia. The conference will focus on promoting and supporting the implementation of evidence-based practices in inclusive settings for young children, both with and without disabilities. The conference will be held at the historic Hotel Roanoke July 19-21, 2017.

The keynote will be presented by Dr. Kate Gallagher. Dr. Gallagher is the Cille and Ron Williams Community Chair for Early Childhood Education at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and the Buffett Early Childhood Institute. Her keynote address is entitled, *Supporting the Whole Child and Family Intervention: What it Means and What it Takes*. Sessions will include important topics in the field of early intervention and early childhood/early childhood special education, including:

- Assessment
- Assistive Technology
- Autism
- Challenging Behavior
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Dual-Language Learners
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Social-Emotional Development
- Universal Design for Learning

Anyone involved with early childhood, birth – five should attend, including:

- Early Intervention Providers
- Early Childhood Educators
- Early Childhood Special Educators
- Related Service Providers
- Childcare Providers
- Administrators/Supervisors
- Paraprofessionals
- Parents and Family Members

There will be full day preconference workshops available on Wednesday, July 19, 2017 to provide in-depth learning on the following topics:

- Providing Meaningful Instruction for ALL Children: Using Assessment and Performance Monitoring in Early Childhood Special Education
- Preparing Young Children with Autism and Significant Support Needs for Academic and Social Success
- Assistive Technology Playground: Say What? Teaching and Learning about Core Vocabulary

- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health
- The Community of Practice in Autism (CoPA): A Statewide Network of Providers Supporting Infants and Young Children Birth-Three Years

**DATES:** July 19-21, 2017 (July 19 preconference workshops, July 20-21 conference)

**LOCATION:** [The Hotel Roanoke](#), [110 Shenandoah Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24016](#)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:** <http://conta.cc/2mZ977X>

If you have questions, please contact Jaye Harvey, Virginia Cross-Sector Professional Development (VCPD) Coordinator by email at [jhwellons@vcu.edu](mailto:jhwellons@vcu.edu) and phone (540) 588-7358.

SRS/DH/dj