



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

April 7, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Dyslexia Awareness Training Module Requirement for Initial Licensure and License Renewal – Effective July 1, 2017

This correspondence is a follow-up to Superintendent's Memo #004-17, dated January 6, 2017, notifying school divisions that in response to House Bill 842 of the 2016 General Assembly, the Virginia Board of Education amended the requirements for licensure.

Every person seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license shall complete awareness training, provided by the Department of Education, on the indicators of dyslexia, as that term is defined by the Board pursuant to regulations, and the evidence-based interventions and accommodations for dyslexia. This requirement becomes effective July 1, 2017.

To meet the requirements, the Virginia Department of Education has developed a free online Dyslexia Awareness Training Module. The module may be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/index.shtml>. Individuals completing the module should print a copy of the certificate of completion for verification. The module has a value of five professional development points. Questions or concerns relating to the Dyslexia Awareness Module should be directed to Special Education Instruction via email at spedinstruction@doe.virginia.gov.

Additional resources entitled *Specific Learning Disability Supplementary Guide, Dyslexia: Frequently Asked Questions* and *Virginia's Guidelines for Educating Students with Specific Learning Disabilities* are available at the following address: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/special_ed/disabilities/learning_disability/.

School Divisions Submitting Requests for Initial Licensure or License Renewal

Effective July 1, 2017, school divisions submitting requests for initial licensure or license renewal on behalf of employees will be required to verify the completion of the Dyslexia Awareness Training Module.

Individuals Submitting Requests for Initial Licensure or License Renewal

Effective July 1, 2017, an individual requesting initial licensure or license renewal must submit official documentation of the completion of the Dyslexia Awareness Training Module.

Questions regarding licensure should be directed to Dr. Kendra Crump, Director, Licensure and School Leadership, by email at Kendra.Crump@doe.virginia.gov or telephone at (804) 371-2471.

Questions regarding instructional programs for students with disabilities should be directed to Dr. Pat Abrams, Director, Special Education Instructional Services, via email at Pat.Abrams@doe.virginia.gov or telephone at (804) 225-2707.

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