



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

April 21, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: English Co-Teaching Academy: Addressing Non-fiction and Writing in the Co-Taught Classroom

The Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE's) Office of Special Education Instructional Services in collaboration with the Office of Humanities and Early Childhood will again sponsor the English Co-Teaching Academy, addressing non-fiction and writing in the co-taught classroom. The Academy is designed for school teams of English and special education teachers working together to enhance all student outcomes, especially students with disabilities. The focus will be on improving content understanding, pedagogical strategies, collaboration/co-teaching strategies, and networking. The Academy will be held July 6-7, 2017, at Wyndham Virginia Crossings Hotel & Conference Center, 1000 Virginia Center Pkwy., Glen Allen, Virginia 23059.

Middle and high school English and special education teachers in co-teaching teams are the primary audience for this program. The VDOE is seeking two-member teams from individual middle and high schools. Priority will be given to teachers who teach in schools that have not met their Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) for students with disabilities in English. For participants who travel more than 75 miles one-way, VDOE will reimburse the cost of lodging and meals not provided by the Academy. School divisions are encouraged to cover mileage expenses for participants. A \$100/day stipend will be provided to each eligible participant.

Due to high level of interest in this conference over the last two years, a pre-conference application is required. The pre-conference application can be found at Virginia Tech Conference pre-planning link: https://viriniatech.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bqgdfcEqMoP3hK5. Once the application is reviewed and if selected to participate, participants will receive notification and the official registration link from Continuing and Professional Education at Virginia Tech. Pre-conference applications must be submitted by May 5, 2017. Participants will be notified by May 19, 2017.

If you have additional questions about the program, please contact Ms. Kim Bausum-Brown, Dyslexia and Specialized Reading Instruction Specialist, at Kim.Bausum-Brown@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 225-2080, or Dr. Teresa Lee, Instructional Coordinator, Special Education Instructional Services, at Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 371-8283.

SRS/TL/tc