



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: September 1, 2017
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: Preparation for Teaching Careers

The Education and Training Career Cluster prepares high school students for teaching careers that serve individuals of all ages and across a range of content and specializations. To address the growing teacher shortage in Virginia, school divisions are encouraged to offer [Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow](#) and [Early Childhood, Education, and Services](#) programs of study. Students will have an opportunity to participate in work-based learning experiences, dual enrollment, earn credentials such as the [ParaPro](#) or [Praxis](#), and develop leadership skills through participation in the student organization, [Educators Rising](#).

By 2022, a number of teachers are expected to retire, leading to a rise in job prospects for educators. The increased emphasis on early childhood education is driving the demand for preschool and middle school teachers. A shortage of qualified teachers for career and technical education provides opportunities for career switchers, as well as teachers from traditional college programs. Read more about [Virginia's Pathways to Teaching](#) (PDF).

If you have any questions, please contact Helen G. Fuqua, Team Leader for Teaching Career Pathways, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education at cte@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3119.

SRS/LBH/aab

Attachment:

- A. [Virginia's pathways to Teaching](#) (PDF)