



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

February 12, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Digital Learning Day – February 17, 2016

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in cooperation with the Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) and the Alliance for Excellent Education, is pleased to announce February 17 as Digital Learning Day. This event is part of a national campaign designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students; explore how digital learning can provide all students with the opportunities they deserve; and build the skills students need to succeed in college, career, and life. It also provides an opportunity to highlight the use of digital learning resources such as the [Copia Virtual Textbook Marketplace and Resource Center](#), [Virtual Virginia Algebra I lessons](#), and other Department of Education [technology initiatives](#).

All education stakeholders are invited to review the [Digital Learning Day](#) resources. Participants will have access to ideas and ways to plan their celebration as well as updates, informational videos, webinars, and other resources.

Several activities will be held on February 17 to highlight and celebrate participants across the nation. The VDOE will host two live webinars to provide updates on current and proposed technology-related initiatives. The VSTE will host an evening webinar that will highlight the VSTE 2015 award winners: Outstanding Teacher of the Year: Doug Saunders, Henrico County; Outstanding Leader of the Year: Dr. Helen Crompton, Old Dominion University; Innovative Educator of the Year: Kim Harrison, Virginia Beach Public Schools and Making It Happen Award Winners: Janet Copenhaver, Henry County Public Schools and Mano Talaiver, recently retired from Longwood University.

Throughout the day, VSTE will be featuring students across the Commonwealth talking about how they learn, how they use technology to learn and showing some of the innovative projects they are working on in their classrooms.

To access the full schedule for the VDOE/VSTE Digital Learning Day 2016 events, go to <http://vste.org/digital-learning-day-2016/> for more information. Schools, libraries, community programs, and classrooms are invited to showcase how they are using digital media to improve teaching and learning.

To learn more about Digital Learning Day, go to <http://www.digitallearningday.org>.

Questions regarding Digital Learning Day should be directed to Mark Saunders, director of technology and virtual learning, at mark.saunders@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 786-0307.

SRS/BH/MS

