



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

March 18, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: 2016-2017 Application for Co-Teaching Demonstration Sites**

To enhance the co-teaching model in Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) implemented the Excellence in Co-teaching Initiative in 2014-2015 with middle and high school demonstration site classrooms throughout the state. Because of the level of commitment and work that the demonstration site partners have done to enhance the co-teaching skills of other Virginia teachers, VDOE is expanding the initiative to include elementary sites and additional secondary sites. The VDOE is seeking nominations from building and division leadership of co-teaching partners and their schools to become demonstration sites for the Excellence in Co-teaching Initiative during the 2016-2017 school year. The following sites are needed:

- Elementary classrooms in all Regions of the state;
- Middle and High school classrooms; while all applications will be considered, there is a particular need for demonstration sites in Regions 1 and 8 and for science and social studies classrooms.

Demonstration sites showcase the implementation of co-teaching by promoting a collaborative model in which general and special education teachers share responsibility for the achievement of all students in the general education classroom through active co-teaching, collaboration, and implementation of inclusive and research-based practices. The selected co-teaching partners will assist in enhancing current co-teaching practices across the state by modeling best practices in co-teaching to other co-teaching teams during visits to their classrooms, and by sharing resources with others in a variety of ways.

The VDOE and the Training and Technical Assistance Centers (TTACs) will provide training, technical assistance, and support for each demonstration site. A \$5,000 subgrant will be provided to the participating schools for use in supporting the achievement of students with disabilities, and the co-teaching partners will each receive a \$2,500 stipend.

An application is attached that contains the competitive criteria for participation. Information on participation expectations and requirements in order to be considered for selection are included in the application. Completed applications and supporting materials (Sections 1 - 7) must be received by the Virginia Department of Education by 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15, 2016.

The application and video links may be e-mailed to Dr. Teresa Lee at [Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov) (see section 4 of the attached application document). If DVDs are used, mail to:

Dr. Teresa Lee  
Virginia Department of Education

P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218

Demonstration sites will be selected by May 20, 2016. If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail or call Dr. Teresa Lee at (804) 371-8283.

SRS/TL/tc

Attachment:

- A. [Excellence in Co-teaching Initiative: Application for Co-Teaching Demonstration Sites](#) (Word)