



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

March 25, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Virginia Health and Physical Activity Institute, July 10-15, 2016, James Madison University**

The Virginia Department of Education and the [Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance](#) extend an invitation to all administrators and teachers to attend the [Healthy Kids, Healthy Virginia 2016 Health and Physical Activity Institute](#). The Institute will be held July 10-15, 2016, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and provides opportunities for sharing effective teaching and learning practices that support the implementation of the newly adopted 2015 *Standards of Learning*, and improve the health and educational performance of children in Virginia's schools.

The 2016 Institute will feature several nationally acclaimed educators, National and State Teachers of the Year, and a variety of engaging workshops, and general sessions that focus on:

- improving the quality of health and physical education instruction;
- building teacher capacity and instructional expertise through new and innovative teaching and learning practices for the 2015 *Standards of Learning* for [Health Education](#), [Physical Education](#), and [Driver Education](#);
- nutrition, alcohol and other drug education, bullying and suicide prevention;
- lifetime fitness activities, employee wellness, active recess, and dance;
- life skills and cooperative learning;
- adapted physical education;
- standards-based assessment;
- integrating technology and instruction; and
- injury prevention.

In addition to the high-quality keynote and concurrent sessions, there are several [special events](#) that require early arrival on Sunday, July 10, 2016. These include Archery, Fly Fishing and Bike Smart Virginia certification for teachers; National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) Certified Personal Trainer teacher training; CPR/AED/basic first aid recertification and instructor trainer certification; and a leadership track to prepare presenters to conduct turnaround professional development training for successful implementation of the 2015 *Standards of Learning*.

James Madison University will also be offering two three-credit, graduate-level courses: Technology in Health and Physical Education and The Teacher Leader: Exploring Classroom and Leadership & Management. Information about these [courses](#), [special events](#), [registration](#), and the [Call for Presenters form](#) are available online.

If you need additional information about the 2016 Virginia Health and Physical Activity Institute, please contact Vanessa Wigand, principal specialist for health, physical, and driver education, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at [Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 225-3300; or Dr. Jacqueline Williams, professor, James Madison University, by e-mail at [williaja@jmu.edu](mailto:williaja@jmu.edu).

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Links:

- [Healthy Kids, Healthy Virginia 2016 Health and Physical Activity Institute](#)
- [2015 Health Standards of Learning](#)
- [2015 Physical Education Standards of Learning](#)
- [2015 Driver Education Standards of Learning](#)