



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

July 15, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2016-2017 Academy for New Special Education Directors

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to extend an invitation to any newly hired local director of special education to the Academy for New Special Education Directors. The yearlong Academy will include four two-day workshops and one one-day workshop in Richmond. The first workshop is scheduled for September 14-15, 2016. The September workshop will provide an orientation to the Division of Special Education and Student Services at VDOE, as well as critical technical assistance resources for results driven accountability and other regulatory information. The additional workshops will address relevant topics in-depth for new directors. The schedule and location for the workshops will be disseminated to the Academy participants in August. Each new director will be assigned a veteran special education director as a mentor. A new special education director is defined as one who is new to the position and has not been a special education director in another location or was new after last year's Academy.

If your division has employed a new special education director, please provide the individual's name, position/title, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address so that an invitation to the Academy may be extended. This information should be provided to Dr. Pat Abrams, director, Office of Special Education Instructional Services. If you have questions, Dr. Abrams can be contacted by phone at (804) 225-2707 or via e-mail at Pat.Abrams@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/PA/tc