



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

August 12, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Announcing the 2017 Children's Engineering Convention

The Virginia Department of Education, in collaboration with the Virginia Children's Engineering Council and the Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association, is co-sponsoring the Children's Engineering Convention for grades K-5 teachers and administrators. The convention will be held at the Hotel Roanoke, 110 Shenandoah Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia, February 9-10, 2017.

The Children's Engineering Convention special interest sessions will highlight best practices and classroom strategies that support instruction in grades K-5 through hands-on design, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. These instructional experiences will assist participants in preparing children to:

- explore how people create, use, and control technology;
- apply knowledge in mathematics, science, English, and history and social sciences in solving problems associated with technology; and
- use tools and materials to develop technological literacy and self-confidence.

You may access the [convention overview here](#) and [register](#) today.

If you have questions regarding the convention, please contact the Convention Registrars, Elizabeth Caton, at ecat@vt.edu or by telephone at (540) 231-6002; or Teresa McCoy, at teresas@vt.edu or by telephone at (540) 231-8220.

If you have questions regarding children's engineering, please contact Dr. Lynn Basham, specialist for technology education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, at cte@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2052.

SRS/LBH/aab