



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

November 18, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: “Hour of Code” – National Computer Science Education Week

The Virginia Department of Education asks that school divisions encourage all teachers from kindergarten through high school to sign their classrooms up to participate in the international Hour of Code that kicks off during National Computer Science Education Week, December 5-11, 2016. Visit <https://csedweek.org/educate> or www.hourofcode.org to register your school or classroom to participate in this international event.

Schools and classrooms are also encouraged to tune in to a live stream of Virginia’s Hour of Code kickoff event at the Science Museum of Virginia. Log on to www.codevirginia.org on December 5, 2016, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., to participate virtually in this event.

Computer Science and coding are essential literacy in a modern workplace, with more than 70 percent of STEM-field jobs relying on basic Computer Science knowledge. Hour of Code aims to build a better awareness of the technology and computer science industry in classrooms around the Commonwealth. Visit www.hourofcode.org to access free, easy online materials or offline worksheets that introduce students and teachers to the fun activities on the basics of computational thinking, computer science and coding. Computer and non-computer activities for every grade level and experience are also available on the site.

For more information please contact Rebecca Dovi at Code Virginia at rebeccadovi@codevirginia.org or by phone at (804) 440-7135.

SRS/LDW/jm