



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 10, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Health and Physical Activity Institute, July 12-15, 2015, 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 2015 Health and Physical Activity Institute](#). The Institute will be held July 12-15, 2015, at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and provides opportunities for sharing effective teaching and learning practices that improve the health and educational performance of children in Virginia's schools.

The 2015 Institute will feature several nationally acclaimed educators, the National Teachers of the Year, and breakout sessions that will focus on:

- curriculum leadership;
- nutrition education;
- fitness and wellness;
- life skills, cooperative learning, and differentiated instruction;
- adapted physical education;
- bullying and suicide prevention;
- CPR/AED/basic first aid recertification and instructor trainer certification;
- active recess;
- dance;
- standards-based assessment;
- school employee wellness;
- integrating technology and instruction; and
- injury prevention.

Additional sessions will be available to build teacher capacity and instructional expertise in promoting effective teaching and learning for the newly adopted 2015 *Standards of Learning* for [Health Education](#), [Physical Education](#), and [Driver Education](#).

In addition to the high-quality keynote and concurrent sessions, there are several [special events](#) that require early arrival on Sunday, July 12, 2015. These include *Archery*, *Fly Fishing* and *Bike Smart Virginia* certification for teachers; a driver education workshop for teachers and supervisors; 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 *Instructional Strategies in Adapted Physical Education*. Information about these [courses](#), [special events](#), [registration](#), and the [Call for Presenters form](#) is available online.

If you need additional information about the 2015 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 or by telephone at (804) 225-3300; or Dr. Jacqueline Williams, professor, James Madison University, by e-mail at williaja@jmu.edu.

SRS/VCW/rt