



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

May 15, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) Cohort 3 Application**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to extend an invitation for school divisions to participate in Cohort 3 of the Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS). The VTSS is a coordinated, tiered approach to improving educational outcomes through a continuum of evidence-based academic and behavioral supports for all students. Through this initiative, the VDOE will provide training and technical assistance to school divisions in the implementation of VTSS, with an initial emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Participation in VTSS cohort 3 is open to all Virginia school divisions not currently participating in a VTSS cohort.

The VTSS provides a framework for organizing evidence-based practices to address the continuum of student needs in a school. Professional development will be provided to support implementation of evidence-based practices with fidelity. The VTSS includes both the approaches of Response to Intervention (RtI) and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). The goal of VTSS is to enable schools to establish learning environments characterized by positive behavior and fidelity of instruction to impact student outcomes. This initiative is funded through the School Climate Transformation Grant (SCTG) [*Building and Expanding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports within the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS)*]; PR/Award number: [S184F140020](#)].

Divisions interested in participating in VTSS Cohort 3 should review the application instructions ([Attachment A](#)) and submit a completed application (Attachment B) no later than June 30, 2015. Divisions interested in learning more about VTSS and this opportunity should designate a team of division leaders to attend an informational session on June 16, 2015. This session will take place from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton located at 1021 Koger Center Boulevard in Midlothian, Virginia. Those interested in attending the informational session are directed to complete the registration by June 7 posted at [http://www.cscs.soe.vcu.edu/VTSS\\_Workshops\\_-\\_2015\\_June\\_16.html](http://www.cscs.soe.vcu.edu/VTSS_Workshops_-_2015_June_16.html).

Questions regarding this event should be directed to Ms. Maribel Saimre, school psychology specialist, via e-mail at [Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

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Attachments:

- A. [VTSS Cohort 3 Overview and Application Instructions](#) (PDF)
- B. [VTSS Cohort 3 Application](#) (Word)

