Department of Education

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# **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MEMO NO. 255-24**

**DATE:** September 18, 2024

**TO:** CTE Administrators

**FROM:** Dr. J. Anthony Williams, Director

 Office of Career and Technical Education

## SUBJECT: Announcing the 2024 Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) Behavioral Health Academy

The Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has announced the Behavioral Health Academy + *IMPACT 2024*. This no-cost opportunity provides high school students with ten live, after-school virtual discussion sessions, and nine self-paced modules on the foundations of mental health. The initiative aims to foster career awareness by helping students develop an understanding of behavioral health career opportunities. Upon completion of the Academy, students will receive a digital badge and certificate. The deadline for registration is Friday, September 27, 2024, and additional information is referenced in the Behavioral Health Academy + *IMPACT 2024* [brochure](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/home/showdocument?id=57084&t=638605377606271142).

Questions related to the Behavioral Health Academy + *IMPACT 2024*, should be directed to Dr. Kesia Gwaltney at kesia.gwaltney1@dbhds.virginia.gov. For information regarding the career and technical education Mental Health Assisting Careers course, please contact Crystal Y. Stokes, Health and Medical Sciences and Related Clusters Specialist, Office of Career and Technical Education, at CTE@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 750-8129.

JAW/jts