



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 21, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS) 2014-15 Cohort

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to extend an invitation for school divisions to participate in the 2014-15 cohort for the Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS). The VTSS utilizes a multi-tiered framework relying on evidence-based practices to improve academic and behavioral outcomes for students. The VDOE will focus on technical assistance and professional development for schools identified as not reaching an annual measurable objective (AMO). The VTSS cohort 2 is open to all public schools not reaching an AMO for students with disabilities.

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), including instructional support in the areas of mathematics and literacy through the Strategic Instruction Model (SIM), 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. The initiative is funded through the Virginia State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) [*Virginia Tiered System of Support: Building Capacity & Sustainability in Evidence-Based Practices*, PR/Award number: H323A120026].

Divisions with schools not reaching an AMO for students with disabilities and interested in applying should designate a team of administrators to attend an informational meeting from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on April 11, 2014, at the James Monroe Building, 101 N. 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia, Conference Rooms C, D and E. The team should include a central office administrator with authority over instruction and building principals. You may also consider including a teacher as a team member. Those interested in attending the informational meeting are directed to complete the registration by April 7 posted at https://events.membersolutions.com/event_detail.asp?content_id=46108.

Questions regarding this event should be directed to Dr. Thomas Manthey, coordinator of VTSS, via e-mail at tom.manthey@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-4024.

PIW/tcm