



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 25, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: New iTunes U Courses for Teachers

Four new professional development courses will be available in the fall for teachers of mathematics from grades K through 12 and for teachers interested in learning how to teach in online environments. These courses will be located on the Virginia on iTunes U site and available at no cost. The courses are being developed by Virginia teachers as part of the Innovative Learning Teams project launched in November. See [Superintendent's Memo #302-13](#).

The mathematics courses will focus on three strands: Patterns, Functions, and Algebra; Probability and Statistics; and Numbers and Number Sense. These courses are intended to be used to support teachers who may have gaps in their mathematics knowledge or may want to experiment with new ways of teaching that integrates technology. Teachers can browse for any of the K-12 Virginia *Mathematics Standards of Learning* (SOL) and find teaching suggestions along with links to digital resources. Topics are arranged by strand so that teachers can see the long-range implications of what they teach and how it fits with what students have learned before and will learn moving forward.

The fourth course, *Online Teaching for the Face-to-Face Teacher*, focuses on introducing traditional teachers to the techniques and skills needed to become an online teacher. It is a self-paced course with tasks the teachers can do to practice newly learned skills.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Weller, instructional technology specialist, in the Office of Digital Innovations and Outreach at (804) 225-2825 or via e-mail at jean.weller@doe.virginia.gov.

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