



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

August 30, 2013

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Patricia I. Wright, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: New Special Education Web site for Parents

The Virginia Department of Education, in collaboration with the Helen A. Kellar Institute for Human disAbilities at George Mason University, is pleased to announce the launch of new Web site dedicated to providing comprehensive information on special education issues, practices and services to families who have children with disabilities in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The new Web site is entitled "Virginia Family Special Education Connection" and can be located at: <http://vafamilysped.org/>

The Web site was designed in consultation with advocacy organizations, families, and special educators to provide easy access to special education information in a family friendly format. The site contains significant resources on local, state and national topics related to special education, education planning, academic and family support, as well as federal and state regulations. A section of the Web site is also dedicated to providing families with online training that can be completed on demand.

The Virginia Department of Education is committed to ensuring that parents of children with disabilities have access to critical information they need to fully participate as an active member of their child's education team. We believe this new Web site will help aid families in their efforts to ensure that their children receive the necessary special education supports and services to become successful citizens of the Commonwealth.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact [Hank Millward](#), coordinator for special education family engagement and complaints at telephone (804) 371-0525.

PIW/jme