



#037-22

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #037-22

DATE: February 11, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Distribution of Mentor Teacher Funds for Fiscal Year 2022**

For a number of years the General Assembly has appropriated \$1.0 million per year in state funds to support **mentoring for first-year teachers with no experience**. The *Code of Virginia* requires school divisions to provide mentoring to first-year teachers. In past years, these funds have been distributed to school divisions on a fixed amount per position based on divisions' reported number of first-year teachers with no experience. The General Assembly's Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC), as part of its October 2020 report on the Operations and Performance of the Virginia Department of Education, recommended that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) develop and implement a methodology to allocate a higher amount of teacher mentorship funds to school divisions with the largest teacher shortages.

The fiscal year 2022 weighted funding formula factors include:

- The number of instructional personnel reported
- The number of first year teachers
- Unfilled instructional personnel positions

Participation in this funding opportunity is voluntary. However, please note that §22.1-303 of the *Code of Virginia* requires that,

School boards shall provide each probationary teacher except probationary teachers who have prior successful teaching experience, as determined by the local school board in a school division, a mentor teacher, as described by Board guidelines developed pursuant to Section 22.1-305.1, during the first year of the probationary period, to assist such probationary teacher in achieving excellence in instruction.

The 2021-2022 Mentor Teacher Program is funded from the Lottery Proceeds Fund and payments from this fund began in January 2022. Funds were allocated by the General Assembly to provide grants to school divisions providing mentors for new teachers to the teaching profession with zero years of teaching experience (this does NOT include teachers who are new to a division with previous years of experience). One million dollars in Lottery funding is available statewide for this program in fiscal year 2022.

Attachment A to this memorandum lists the Mentor Teacher funding allocations from the Lottery Proceeds Fund by school division for fiscal year 2022.

For fiscal year 2022 only, there is an additional \$1.0 million in support for the Mentor Teacher Program, to be funded using American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III state set-aside funds. **Attachment B** to this memorandum lists the Mentor Teacher funding allocations from the ESSER III state set-aside funds by school divisions for fiscal year 2022. The ESSER III allocations use the same weighted funding formula as was used for the Lottery-funded allocations for fiscal year 2022.

Awardees of ARP ESSER III funds are subject to the terms of the grant award as provided in **Attachment C**.

For the ESSER III allocations, budget transfers and reimbursement requests will be processed through the Online Management of Education Grant Awards (OMEGA) system.

For more information

If you have questions about the Mentor Teacher Program, please contact Ms. Johnelle Torbert, Director of Teacher Education, at Johnelle.Torbert@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 371-2475. For assistance with OMEGA, contact OMEGA Support at OMEGA.Support@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/JJ/atb

- A. Attachment: [Fiscal Year 2022 Mentor Teacher Program Lottery Funding Allocations](#) (PDF)
- B. Attachment: [Fiscal Year 2022 Mentor Teacher Program Federal ESSER III Funding Allocations](#) (PDF)
- C. Attachment: [ESSER III Mentor Teacher Program Terms of Grant Award](#) (PDF)