



#119-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #119-22**

DATE: June 10, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Professional Learning for Teachers via CHOICE from Virginia Ed Strategies**

The Virginia Department of Education and Virginia Ed Strategies extend an invitation to all school divisions to fill available teacher spaces in the Professional Learning by CHOICE Community. CHOICE is an innovative professional learning model being developed by Virginia Ed Strategies and partners to empower high school STEM teachers to self-select professional learning aligned to their goals and experience ongoing support from an online community of peers and resources statewide.

Through this initiative, 15 or more teachers from each division can participate in CHOICE and therefore have access to \$1,500 annually (for two years) to pay for the professional learning they choose. Instructional administrators are also invited to participate in a virtual administrator Community of Practice (CoP) to receive program assistance and to grow professionally alongside their teachers. The ultimate goal of CHOICE is to build the sustainable teacher effectiveness capacity of 1,600 or more teachers across Virginia and improve student engagement, achievement, and preparation for high-demand STEM careers. There is no cost to the school or division for teachers and administrators to participate.

For more information

More information about CHOICE may be found on the [website](#) including [FAQs](#). Administrators wishing to ask questions and further discuss participation in CHOICE may contact Jennifer Stevens, President and CEO of Virginia Ed Strategies and Project Director for CHOICE, by email at jennifer@vaedstrategies.org or by telephone at (434) 222-8754.

JB/ES/ba

- A. Attachment: [Details of Professional Learning for Teachers via CHOICE from Virginia Ed Strategies](#) (DOCX)