



#238-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #238-21

DATE: August 20, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

The Department of Education is pleased to announce that Virginia will participate in the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) Program. The PAEMST program was established in 1983 by the White House and is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House Office of Science and Technology. The program recognizes teachers of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and computer science—kindergarten through grade 12—in each state and the four United States jurisdictions. The PAEMST awardees serve as models for their colleagues and are leaders in the improvement of science and mathematics education.

The PAEMST program recognizes elementary and secondary level teachers in alternating years. This year recognition will be given to teachers of kindergarten through grade 6 in elementary mathematics and elementary science (K-6). Computer science applications will be reviewed as part of the mathematics category, and engineering applications will be reviewed as part of the science category. Virginia can recommend up to three nominees in mathematics teaching and three nominees in science teaching. From these state finalists, a national committee will choose up to two national-level awardees (one in each award group) from Virginia. National awardees receive a \$10,000 personal award and participate in recognition events and other activities.

Elementary mathematics or science teachers must be nominated using the online [nomination form](#). Nominations can be made by students, parents, teachers, and administrators. Teachers may also self-nominate. The nomination form must be submitted electronically by January 7, 2022 and should be completed early enough so that the teacher has enough time to prepare an application that reflects exemplary elementary teaching. The nomination form and the application packet as well as complete directions are available on the [PAEMST](#) website. All completed applications must be submitted electronically by February 6, 2022.

For more information

For more information, please contact Debra Delozier, Mathematics Specialist, Office of STEM and Innovation, by email at Debra.Delozier@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-7986; or Gregory MacDougall, Science Specialist, Office of STEM and Innovation, by email at Gregory.MacDougall@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 786-6418.

JFL/GDM