



Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS)

Cohort 4

Overview and Application Instructions

RATIONALE AND OVERVIEW

The Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) integrates academics, behavior and mental health into a single decision-making framework for establishing the supports needed for a school to be an effective learning environment for all students. This systemic approach allows divisions, schools and communities to provide multiple levels of support to students in a more effective and efficient, clearly defined process.

The Cohort 4 participating divisions will receive training and technical assistance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to implement the framework in their divisions and selected schools with an initial emphasis on Positive Behavioral Interventions Supports (PBIS). Through data driven decision making, participating divisions and schools will guide ongoing practices for both academic and behavioral approaches to support student achievement. Our goal for the Cohort 4 is to improve academic achievement, attendance, school climate and behavioral outcomes for all students.

Training and technical assistance efforts are funded by the School Climate Transformation (SCT) program, a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Federal Award# S184F140020).

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Each division and participating school(s) in the Cohort 4 will receive the following support:

- A two-year implementation plan will be developed in collaboration with each Division Leadership Team (DLT) within three months of selection. The implementation plan will include a timeline with implementation steps and activities driven by the division's unique data.
- Access to high-quality regional and/or statewide trainings led by state and national experts;
- On-site technical assistance provided by assigned Systems Coaches;
- Networking opportunities with other division implementers;
- Systems Coaching training for selected division leaders;

- Access to publications and web-based professional learning modules;
- Training and site license(s) to School-Wide Information System (SWIS), a web-based information system to collect, summarize, and use student behavior data for decision making *[optional]*;
- Self-assessment of implementation facilitated regularly to ascertain progress; and
- Assistance with the alignment of other initiatives and requirements with the VDOE Office of School Improvement and other VDOE activities.

DIVISION COMMITMENT

The Cohort 4 Divisions will:

- Identify VTSS as one of the top division goals and work to align separate initiatives under this framework.
- Allocate local funding and resources to support the framework.
- Form a Division Leadership Team (DLT) that is representative of the division and meets monthly. The DLT commits to attending VDOE-sponsored professional learning opportunities.
- Appoint a Division Coordinator and at least one other member to serve as Division Systems Coaches. These professionals commit to providing coaching and/or follow-up support to schools following professional learning opportunities.
- Allocate time in the school calendar for school based teams, school coaches and administrators to access VDOE-sponsored professional learning opportunities.
- Develop and monitor the implementation action plan, which addresses all three tiers and is aligned with academics, school improvement and/or strategic goals and plans.
- Utilize the implementation plan to build division capacity to support schools in the implementation with fidelity.
- Participate in all evaluation activities as outlined by project evaluators contracted by VDOE.
- Support the collection of evaluation data required of the schools.
- Provide school-based teams timely access to academic and behavior data. If the division chooses to use School-Wide Information System (SWIS; provided at no additional cost), the DLT commits to sending at least two staff members to SWIS facilitators training.



PREPARING THE APPLICATION

All applications must be prepared in accordance with the specifications below. Applications must include:

1. Section A: Documentation of Division Exploration Activities
2. Section B: The VTSS Commitment for Success Agreement and Signature Page

Section C: Letters of Support (optional)

Completed applications must be received by 4:30 p.m. on **June 19, 2017**. Paper original or scanned electronic copies are acceptable. All applications must bear the signature of the Division Superintendent on the Signature Page (see Section B). All submitted proposals become the property of the VDOE.

The address for delivery is:

Virginia Department of Education
Attn: Tom Manthey
Office of Student Services
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, Virginia 23218-2120
Tom.Manthey@doe.virginia.gov

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND SELECTION

Divisions will be selected as follows:

- 1) Screening – Proposals will be screened to ensure that all required components of the applications were submitted;
- 2) Review – Complete applications will be reviewed and scored by a committee assembled by VDOE;
- 3) Selection – Divisions will be selected for participation in VTSS Cohort 4 by June 30, 2017.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Attachment A
Superintendent's Memo No. 150-17
May 12, 2017

If you have questions or require further clarification, please contact Dr. Thomas Manthey, VTSS Coordinator, at Tom.Manthey@doe.virginia.gov; telephone (804) 225-4024.