



#049-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #049-21

DATE: February 26, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Professional Development Opportunity: Building Science Teacher Leader Capacity**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce an opportunity for potential teacher leaders to engage in sustained professional learning with the intent of building science teacher leader capacity. If selected, participants will be enrolled in two graduate courses at James Madison University (TCLD 660 and TCLD 670) and will complete a capstone product that may be used in future divisionwide and statewide science professional learning. In addition, these teacher leaders will continue to work with the VDOE science team for the 2021-2022 academic year as part of a professional learning community (PLC) designed to support the implementation of the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*.

The identified teacher leaders will participate in targeted coursework designed to build their capacity as teacher leaders and instructional coaches. This includes, but is not limited to:

- fostering a collaborative culture to support educator development and student learning;
- accessing and using research to improve practice and student learning;
- promoting professional learning for continuous improvement;
- facilitating improvements in instruction and student learning to support the implementation of the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*;
- promoting the use of assessments and data for school and division improvement;
- improving outreach and collaboration with families and community; and

- advocating for student learning and the profession.

The two leadership courses and PLC will support the VDOE science vision and prepare teachers for leading their peers in the integration of the 2018 *Science Standards of Learning*. Each course will be eight weeks in duration and will begin in August 2021 and completed by December 15, 2021.

All potential science teacher leaders who wish to participate in the professional learning opportunity must complete the web-based application using the Instruction Committee Application Processing System (ICAPS). The web-based application process requires a professional reference and division-level approval. Procedures for submitting the web-based application are available on our website at [Instruction Committee Application Process](#).

Completed applications should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education using ICAPS by April 15, 2021.

For more information

If you have questions, please contact Anne Petersen, Science Coordinator, Office of STEM and Innovation, by email at Anne.Petersen@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2676.

JFL/AP