



#082-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #082-22**

DATE: April 15, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: Addressing the Needs of Diverse Learners - Summer Institute

The Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Office of Special Education Instructional Services, in partnership with the Offices of Humanities and Gifted Education, will sponsor a collaborative summer Institute on Addressing the Needs of Diverse Learners. The Institute will include three consecutive conferences that will take place on July 18, 19, and 20, 2022, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Richmond. Each conference day will run from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and will focus on addressing the needs of students with disabilities in a specific context.

The Virginia Department of Education will assume the cost of registration and lunch the day of the conference. For participants traveling over 75 miles (150 miles round trip), VDOE will reimburse mileage and one night's lodging. Local school divisions are encouraged to cover travel expenses for those traveling less than 75 miles as VDOE will not assume these costs; however, this is not a requirement of the program.

Each conference can accommodate 100 individuals and the target audience is specific to the conference focus on that day. Due to space limitations, each individual should select only one conference to attend.

July 18, 2022 - Addressing the needs of Twice Exceptional Students

This conference will focus on Elementary Classrooms for Twice Exceptional Students: A Focus on Strengths. The target audience for this conference are elementary teachers and resource personnel who work with twice exceptional elementary students. Keynote speaker and presenter, Richard Weinfeld, will enlighten participants about working with student strengths and lesson plan modifications. Each participant will receive a copy of “Smart Kids with Learning Difficulties: Overcoming Obstacles and Realizing Potential” (2nd edition). Participants will also learn more about the VDOE Toolkit of strategies for teaching twice exceptional students and active learning strategies for a more engaging classroom.

July 19, 2022 - Addressing the needs of English Learners with Disabilities

This conference will focus on Instructing Dually Identified English Learners in a Variety of Educational Settings. It is suggested that teams of English Learner teachers, Special Education teachers, classroom teachers, and school administrators are the primary target audience. Presenters from various Virginia universities and VDOE staff will provide interactive, hands-on workshop sessions on best practices for addressing the learning needs of Dually Identified English Learners in the various classroom settings.

July 20, 2022 - Addressing the needs of Students with Disabilities as World Language Learners

This conference will focus on Addressing the Needs of Students with Disabilities in the World Language Classroom. World Language coordinators, Special Education coordinators, classroom teachers, and resource or lead personnel in these specialty areas are the primary target audience. Keynote speaker Leslie Grahn will open the conference and facilitate workshop sessions to focus on meeting the needs of diverse learners and designing proficiency-based assessments. VDOE staff will facilitate additional sessions on characteristics of specific learning disabilities, high-leverage teaching practices, and technical support documents.

Registration

Space is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis with consideration given to achieve parity across school divisions until all participant spaces are filled. Registration will close on June 15, 2022.

Registration Links:

[Addressing the Needs of Twice Exceptional Students](#)

[Addressing the Needs of English Learners with Disabilities](#)

[Addressing the Needs of Students with Disabilities as World Language Learners](#)

For more information

The links to registration are listed above. If you have additional questions about the Institute, please contact: Dr. Teresa Lee, Coordinator, Office of Special Education and Instructional Services, at Teresa.Lee@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 371-8283; Dr. Lisa Harris, Coordinator of World Languages, at Lisa.Harris@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 225-3666; Mrs. Jo-el Cox, Coordinator of English Learner Instruction, at Jo-el.Cox@doe.virginia.gov or at (804) 786-3927; or Dr. Donna Poland, Coordinator of Governor's Schools & Gifted Education, at Donna.Poland@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2884.

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