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IS FOR
LEARNERS**

James F. Lane, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMAIL

Contact: John Hendron, 804-225-4387

DATE: February 1, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Sound-Off: Boosting Phonological Awareness Instruction and Assessment

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of Special Education Instructional Services, in partnership with the Training and Technical Assistance Center at George Mason University, invites school teams of three to five participants that includes general education teachers, reading specialists, special education teachers, instructional support personnel, or administrators to attend a virtual three-part webinar series entitled *Sound Off: Boosting Phonological Awareness Instruction & Assessment*.

Below are the dates, session descriptions, and the registration links for the live virtual webinars. Once you have registered, an acknowledgement of the registration and a link to access the webinar will be sent to your email.

February 17, 2021, 3-4:30 p.m.

[Webinar 1: Essentials of Phonological Awareness and Instruction](#)

This session provides an understanding of the development of phonological awareness and its subset, phonemic awareness and how they impact learning to read and spell. Participants will walk away with strategies for effective phonological awareness instruction.

February 24, 2021, 3-4:30 p.m.

[Webinar 2: Phonological Awareness: Assessment and Data Analysis](#)

This session provides participants with several tools and methods for phonological awareness assessment and an understanding of how to use the results to inform instruction.

March 3, 2021, 3-4:30 p.m.

[Webinar 3: Phonological Awareness: Program Evaluation & Future Planning](#)

In this session participants will analyze their current phonological practices and identify strengths, opportunities, and next steps for improvement.

Upon completion, school teams will be eligible to apply through a competitive application process for up to \$2,000 in grant monies to purchase materials to support phonological awareness instruction and assessment in their school. Out of those

schools who apply, 25 school teams will be selected to receive this grant funding. An informational session regarding the application process will be scheduled following the webinar series to share details and answer questions.

If you have additional questions about the program, contact Kim Bausum-Brown, Dyslexia and Specialized Reading Specialist, Special Education and Instructional Services, at Kim.Bausum-Brown@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone, at (804) 225-2080.