

With support from the Virginia Department of Education
The Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition

Announces a Conference

Spotlight on K-8 Mathematics Specialists

13 May 2005: 8:30 - 3:00
Hotel Roanoke

It is anticipated that a teacher endorsement for K-8 **Mathematics Specialists** will be enacted in Virginia in the near future. We expect these new specialists to become a powerful force for strengthening our students' learning of mathematics. In preparation for this change, in 2004 the VDOE awarded the Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition (VMSC) a \$750,000 Mathematics and Science Partnership grant for **The Virginia Mathematics Specialist Project¹ (VMSP)**, to implement master degree programs for mathematics specialists in our colleges and universities and to prepare the first cadre of mathematics specialist for our schools.

The VMSP began in the summer of 2004. At the same time Coalition partners have received two large NSF grants focusing on mathematics specialists, and Virginia has become national leader in the matter of mathematics specialists.

This one day conference is aimed at informing our school administrators about

- mathematics specialists,
- evidence for the effectiveness of mathematics specialists,
- progress on the approval of the mathematics specialist endorsement, and
- information of the exciting work of the specialist project and how your schools can participate.

Your central office will receive an announcement from the Superintendent of Public Instruction in the next few days, inviting your division to send representatives to this conference. For the night of Thursday May 12th the Coalition will provide lodging, for up to two individuals from your division if you are coming from outside the immediate Roanoke area, and will host an informal social hour with catered buffet starting at 6:00 PM. I expect this to be an exciting and useful conference. I look forward to seeing you in Roanoke.

Loren Pitt

President, Virginia Mathematics and Science Coalition

¹ The Coalition gratefully acknowledges additional support for our specialist projects from the National Science Foundation and the ExxonMobil Foundation.