

November 8, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

On Thursday, November 19, 2009 advocates, educators, social workers, and stakeholders interested in the educational needs and outcomes of foster care youth and older adopted youth will come together for a shared purpose. Promoting educational stability is one of the primary objectives of the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008*. The Act was unanimously passed by both houses of Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 7, 2008. Subsequently, a meeting was convened to explore the implementation of the legislation in Virginia. When it was determined that one engagement would not suffice, a small informal meeting was convened by advocates, educators, and social workers. Based on emergent discussions in those meetings two things happened. First, it was suggested that establishment of a multi-jurisdictional workgroup might be helpful in considering the immediate challenges regarding the implementation of the Act, as well as effective strategies to swiftly address those challenges. The second recommendation suggested establishment of an ongoing multi-jurisdictional workgroup that might serve as a vehicle to consider programs, positions, policies, and promising practices pursuant to the educational needs of foster care youth and older adopted youth. You were identified as an expert in your field whose input would facilitate and support enhanced educational outcomes for these youth. Please join us at the Virginia Department of Education, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia on Thursday, November 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm. Please RSVP by email peyton.mccoy@dss.virginia.gov or phone 804 726 7944.

Sincerely,

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