



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

February 3, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Call for Student Nominations for the Emancipation Proclamation Monument**

The [Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission](#) invites students in grades K-12 to nominate an African American Virginian for recognition on the Virginia Emancipation Proclamation and Freedom Monument. The permanent 12-foot monument, celebrating the emancipation of slaves and freedom, will be located on Brown's Island in Richmond, Virginia.

Nominations may be submitted by an individual, a class, or a school. All nominations must include the nominee's name, place of birth and date, geographical area of Virginia the nominee is associated, a brief description of achievements and/or contributions to emancipation or freedom, and the name and contact information of the person or group submitting the nomination. As a possible resource, Dominion Virginia Power and the Library of Virginia's Strong Men & Women in Virginia History include a list of [past honorees from 1991–2016](#).

Please submit all entries by March 31, 2017, to:

Brenda H. Edwards  
Senior Research Associate  
Division of Legislative Services  
General Assembly Building, 2nd Floor  
910 Capitol Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[bedwards@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:bedwards@dls.virginia.gov)

If you have questions, please contact Betsy Barton, History and Social Science Specialist, Office of Humanities and Early Childhood, by email at [Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Betsy.Barton@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3454; or Brenda Edwards, Senior Research Associate, Division of Legislative Services, by email at [bedwards@dls.virginia.gov](mailto:bedwards@dls.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 786-3591, ext. 232.

SRS/BSB/vdg

Links:

<http://mlkcommission.dls.virginia.gov/lincoln/pdfs/virginians-monument/Emancipation-Proclamation-and-Freedom-Monument-form.pdf>