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Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUPERINTENDENT'S EMAIL

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DATE: February 24, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

SUPT'S EMAIL: Student Essay Contest Opportunity

We frequently receive requests to disseminate information regarding student opportunities. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit would like to share information about their essay contest.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is seeking submissions for its 2020 essay contest. Students are invited to consider and share their thoughts on the question: "What barriers remain today in exercising the right to vote? What changes, if any, would you make to protect or expand voting rights?" The contest is open to all students currently in grades 9 through 12 from Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Essays are limited to 1,000 words and must be submitted by **April 15, 2020**.

Students have the opportunity to win one of three cash prizes: first place, \$2,000; second place, \$1,500; and third place, \$1,000. Winners will be announced in July, and travel will be provided to the court's Constitution Day event in September 2020.

For additional information and instructions on how to submit an essay, visit www.ca4.uscourts.gov/essay-contest.

For questions, contact the Fourth Circuit Clerk's Office at essaycontest@ca4.uscourts.gov or (804) 916-2706.

Please note: *Children, grandchildren, stepchildren, or members of the household of a federal judge or federal judiciary employee are excluded from the competition.*