

Dear Mrs. Lasich's class,

I was very excited to receive your email expressing interest in the new state creation process. The fact that you want to be part of designing a possible new state tells me that your class is very interested in learning about geography and government. Soon you will be statehood experts. There are a few things that I would suggest you study prior to forming your ideas about the new state.

You will want to learn about your own state of Virginia: what it looks like, the capital and important symbols like the state flag, bird, and tree. Natural resources are important and Virginia has many. Because you will want to make a map of your new state, it will be important to learn what mapmakers need to know. You should learn about the cardinal directions, landforms, map keys and symbols used on a map. Maps also include landmarks, places of interest and streets. Don't forget that Virginia and your new state are part of the world. You'll want to know about the seven continents and the four oceans. Your new state should have different types of communities like urban and rural.

This is a lot to know but with your teacher's help, you can quickly learn about your own state and then get ready to design a new one.

Sincerely,

Cyrus S. Quigley
Administrator, United States Agency for Statehood