# Superintendent’s Memo #004-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 11, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week, February 4-8, 2019

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to recognize professional school counselors during the week of February 4-8, 2019, as we celebrate National School Counseling Week.  This year’s theme, sponsored by the [American School Counselor Association](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/school-counselors-members/about-asca-%281%29/national-school-counseling-week) (ASCA), is entitled “School Counselors: Providing Lessons for Life,”  and highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for the future.  To help you promote the week, ASCA has developed many materials and documents, a number of which are free.

School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by providing academic and career development interventions along with psychosocial counseling and mental/behavioral health supports. Comprehensive and developmental, data-driven school counseling programs help to improve student achievement and are a vital part of the educational process for all students.  Information on school counseling in Virginia can be found on the VDOE [School Counseling and Advisement](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/school_counseling/index.shtml) webpage.

School divisions are encouraged to join VDOE in recognizing Virginia school counselors for their dedication to students' educational success.  Should you have any questions, contact Joseph Wharff, School Counseling Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov; telephone at (804) 225-3370.

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