# Superintendent’s Memo # 073-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 5, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Student Data Privacy Resources

As increased numbers of students utilize school network infrastructure to support personal technological devices, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is committed to assisting school divisions in meeting requirements and processes specific to student data privacy issues.

The VDOE is a member of the Access 4 Learning (A4L) Community.  As part of the A4L, the Student Data Privacy Consortium (SDPC), organized as a Special Interest Group, was created in 2015 to respond to numerous stakeholders addressing on the ground, tactical student data privacy pain points.

The VDOE's membership in the Access 4 Learning Community provides benefits to all school divisions in the Commonwealth of Virginia.  Resources, including community engagement activities, tools and technical assistance for data management and privacy needs, are available at [Access 4 Learning Community](https://privacy.a4l.org).

The VDOE offers this assistance in accordance with the *Code of Virginia,* Section 22.1-20.2. Student data security:

*A. The Department of Education shall develop, in collaboration with the Virginia Information Technologies Agency, and update regularly but in no case less than annually, a model data security plan for the protection of student data held by school divisions. Such model plan shall include (i) guidelines for access to student data and student data systems, including guidelines for authentication of authorized access; (ii) privacy compliance standards; (iii) privacy and security audits; (iv) procedures to follow in the event of a breach of student data; and (v) data retention and disposition policies. The model plan and any updates shall be made available to every school division.*

For additional information and to obtain log-in credentials, please contact Brian Gibbs-Wilson, Chief Information Security Officer, at brian.gibbs-wilson@doe.virginia.gov or at 804-225-4209.

JFL/GCK/oml