# Superintendent’s Memo #080-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 5, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: High School Student Voter Registration Week, April 21-27, 2019

Governor Ralph Northam issued a [proclamation](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/proclamations/proclamation/virginia-high-school-student-voter-registration-week.html) to officially recognize April 21-27, 2019, as Virginia High School Student Voter Registration Week. The purpose of the Proclamation is to encourage high school students, teachers, and administrators across the Commonwealth to conduct voter registration drives at their schools.

“By encouraging young Virginians to be informed and engaged we can foster lifelong voters and ensure that our democracy is truly representative of our diverse Commonwealth,” said Governor Northam. “My administration is proud to support this initiative that stresses the importance of civic engagement and makes voter registration a priority for high school students.”

Last September, Governor Northam announced the [Governor’s High School Voter Registration Challenge](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2018/september/headline-831122-en.html) for the 2018-2019 academic year. Any school that registers 65 percent or more of their senior class to vote can apply [here](https://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4092975/VA-Gov-Challenge-Award-Application.) before the May 20 deadline to receive a banner from the Governor commending their commitment to voter registration. Schools can sign up to participate for the challenge [here](http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-3964146/VA-Governors-Challenge-Sign-Up).

Eligible Virginians who will be 18-years-old by the next general election are encouraged to register and vote in the upcoming primary elections and all subsequent elections. Students can register through their school’s online link found [here](https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/inspire/pages/3726/attachments/original/1535393764/VA_HIGH_SCHOOL___UNIQUE_URL_2018.pdf?1535393764). Virginians can also register online through the [Department of Elections’ Citizen Portal](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html), the Department of Motor Vehicles, their local General Registrar’s Office, or a voter registration drive. The deadline to register to vote for the statewide primary elections for legislative offices is Monday, May 20, 2019.

[Inspire U.S.](http://www.inspire-usa.org/) and the [League of Women Voters of Virginia](https://lwv-va.org/) will continue to provide direct support to schools during High School Student Voter Registration Week and throughout the Governor’s Challenge. Schools participating in the registration challenge can get help and support from the League of Women Voters of Virginia and Inspire U.S. Both groups are advocates for expanding the opportunity to vote.

JFL/mc