# Superintendent’s Memo #107-19

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**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA   
Department of Education**

DATE: May 3, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Addition of Multiple Races Student Group to State Accreditation Achievement Gap Indicators Beginning in the 2020-2021 School Year

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify school divisions of guidance adopted by the Board of Education during the April 25, 2019 business meeting to add a Multiple Races student group to state accreditation beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, based on assessments from the 2019-2020 school year.

The Multiple Races student group will include students of two or more races that are not Hispanic and will be added to the seven reporting groups currently examined for the achievement gap indicators in English and mathematics, including Asian students, Black students, Hispanic students, White students, economically disadvantaged students, English learner students, and students with disabilities.

Virginia Department of Education guidelines indicate that any student group comprising five percent or more of the annual student enrollment will be considered in accountability models. In the 2018-2019 school year, students identifying as two or more races and not Hispanic comprised 5.7 percent of all students enrolled.

Adding the Multiple Races student group to the achievement gap indicators does not require any additional data collection from schools or students. In addition, the rules for applying performance levels to the Multiple Races student group will remain the same as the current reporting groups, and the overall decision rules for determining the final performance level of the achievement gap indicators will also remain the same.

Questions about this memo can be directed to Dr. Jennifer Piver-Renna at 804-225-3698 or [jennifer.piver-renna@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:jennifer.piver-renna@doe.virginia.gov).

JFL/JPR