# Superintendent’s Memo #149-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: June 28, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Virginia General Assembly Page Program and Absences

This memorandum provides information regarding the classification of absences for students participating in the Virginia General Assembly Senate and House of Delegates Page Programs offered by the Senate and the House of Delegates each year during the Virginia General Assembly Session.

The Board of Education amended Virginia’s *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records* to give local school boards greater authority for determining circumstances under which the absence of students should be counted. These Board regulations, effective March 28, 2001, allow a student to be counted as present if he or she is attending activities and events approved by the school board. A student may be counted as present if serving as a page in the Virginia General Assembly so long as the local school board has approved the program. Further, providing local school board approval, no student participating in the page programs should be withdrawn from school. Please see [8VAC20-110-40](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter110/section40) and [8VAC20-110-50](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter110/section50/) to read the full text of these regulations.

You will find information about the page programs at [Virginia General Assembly Page Programs](https://capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/PagePrograms/PagePrograms.html). Please contact Jay Pearson, Virginia House of Delegates Sergeant at Arms and House Information and Communications Services Director at (804) 698-1524 or jpearson@house.virginia.gov for more information on the House of Delegates program or (804) 698-7410 or pageinfo@senate.virginia.gov for the Senate program.

In addition, you may contact this Department’s Office of Policy at (804) 225-2092 or by email at policy@doe.virginia.gov if you have any questions about absences.

JFL/LMS