# Superintendent’s Memo #235-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 27, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: USDA Farm to School Census Data Collection

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is releasing the nation's third Farm to School Census data collection in September 2019. The Farm to School Census captures information about farm to school efforts and assesses the nationwide impact of farm to school activities over time. The Census will survey all public and private School Food Authorities (SFAs) operating the National School Lunch Program in all 50 states and territories. SFAs will receive an email from USDA's Census contractor, ABT Associates, with a unique link to the survey form in September. Data will be collected between September through November.

I would like to encourage each school division to participate in the USDA Farm to School Census to achieve a 100 percent response rate in Virginia. Even if a SFA did not conduct any farm to school activities during the 2018-2019 school year, completion of the Census is still important. SFAs received SNP Director's Memo #2019-2020-12 on August 30 which contained worksheets and local food tracking tools to assist in data compilation for the Census.

Farm to School is an important initiative in Virginia and school divisions can demonstrate support for it by completing this survey.

Thank you for your assistance.

JFL/SCC/cc