# Superintendent’s Memo #242-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 4, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Celebrate Virginia Farm to School Week: October 7-11, 2019

The purpose of this memo is to encourage school divisions to participate in Virginia Farm to School Week scheduled for October 7-11, 2019, and to recognize October as National Farm to School Month.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), is excited to announce the third annual “Crunch Heard `Round the Commonwealth.”

On Wednesday, October 9, 2019, Virginians are encouraged to “make some noise for Farm to School” by simultaneously taking a bite out of a fresh local apple during “The Crunch Heard `Round the Commonwealth.” Additional information and event planning information can be found by downloading this [digital Farm to School Toolkit](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/nutrition/form/farm-to-school-reg.shtml).

The Virginia Farm to School program positively affects the lifelong eating behaviors of Virginia’s children by connecting schools directly with community farmers and local food hubs, paving the way for schools to purchase fresh, nutrient-rich food products, and provide reliable, ongoing support to Virginia’s local agricultural economy. House Joint Resolution No. 692 designates the first full week in October as Farm to School Week in Virginia. School divisions in Virginia can celebrate with locally procured foods featured on school menus, school garden celebrations, field trips to local family farms, poster contests, guest farmers in the classroom and cafeterias, and other educational activities. Schools may also bring Farm to School to the classroom with SOL-based lesson plans and grant opportunities available on the [Virginia Ag in the Classroom website](https://www.agclassroom.org/va/index.cfm). Current funding opportunities can be found in Attachment A.

Visit the [National Farm to School website](http://www.farmtoschool.org/) for additional ideas on how to celebrate in your division. For more information, please contact Trista Grigsby, Office of School Nutrition Farm to School Specialist, at (804) 225-2331 or Trista.Grigsby@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/SCC/bdb/cc

**Attachments**

A. [Funding Opportunities to Support Farm to School Efforts](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2019/242-19a.docx)