# Superintendent’s Memo #246-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 11, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: National Center for Education Statistics High School & Beyond Longitudinal Study of 2020

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) within the U.S. Department of Education will begin contacting select schools in Virginia this month to participate in a national longitudinal research study. The High School and Beyond 2020 (HS&B:20) study strives to make students successful as they enter high school and progress to postsecondary education, the military, or early careers.

This study compliments our work of the *Profile of a Virginia Graduate* and I hope you will consider participation, if selected. The data your school, students, staff, and parents provide will help policymakers and educators understand the factors associated with successful transitions to high school and allow for examination of trends over time. These data are critical for making decisions related to policy and practice.

Collection of these data is not possible without the participation of selected school divisions and schools. By participating in the study, you are providing much needed information to help understand what factors propel some students to successful completion of high school and entry into work or postsecondary education as well as identify key risk factors during this critical stage of education.

Should you have any questions, please call the HS&B:20 information number at (855) 500-1439 or send an email to HSB20@rti.org. You may also contact Elise Christopher at NCES at (202) 245-7098 for more information. Thank you for dedication to education research and your help in making HS&B:20 a success.

JFL/JPR