# Superintendent’s Memo #267-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: November 8, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: School Psychology Awareness Week, November 11-15, 2019

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) joins the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in celebrating School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW), November 11-15, 2019. This year’s theme, “*Find Your Focus”* is action oriented, flexible, and relevant to all age groups. Finding your focus can have a variety of meanings, from paying attention, to being able to see an idea more clearly, to identifying an area of interest, or to being persistent or determined in one’s effort. Focusing can help us set goals, identify action steps, communicate need, and engage in discussions to help create the connections necessary for students to develop critical academic and social emotional skills. Additionally, school psychologists and other school staff may “find their focus” by honing in on their leadership in the counseling room, the classroom, the community, and beyond.

The [NASP](https://www.nasponline.org/research-and-policy/advocacy/school-psychology-awareness-week-%28spaw%29/about-the-theme) web link includes multiple resources to assist divisions. From sample newsletters, to interactive classroom activities, to press releases, there are multiple ways to bring the "***Find Your Focus***” theme to your school community. Be sure to share your efforts and follow those of others using #SPAW2019 on social media. As you celebrate your School Psychologists this week, please be sure to share your activities with us @VDOE\_News.

Questions regarding school psychological services may be directed to Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist, by email at Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

JFL/MM/rge