Superintendent’s Memo #004-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 10, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Statistics in Schools and Participation in the 2020 Census

In the spring of 2020, the United States Census Bureau will begin the count of the entire U.S. population. The U.S. Census Bureau has created a free educational program, [Statistics in Schools](https://www.census.gov/schools/) (SIS), for use in every classroom from Pre-K through twelfth grade. The program includes free, engaging, and easy-to-use materials and resources that are designed to foster census excitement in the classroom, and create awareness and involvement in the upcoming census. By encouraging your teachers to use SIS materials in their classrooms, you will be helping every student and the adults in their home understand the importance of the 2020 Census and its role in shaping the future.

By adding your voice to the 2020 Census as an education leader, you can help ensure that funding is allocated where it is needed most. According to the [Census Government](https://census.gov/) website, “*census data is the foundation for allocation of billions of dollars of federal education aid to states and localities using formulas that factor in population and poverty levels.”* Federal funds include money for the school programs and services you care about the most, such as Title I, special education, free and reduced-price lunches, and health care programs for children.

Additional information about and resources for the 2020 U.S. Census can be found at [Census Counts](https://censuscounts.org/). Questions regarding Virginia educators’ role in the 2020 Census can 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