# Superintendent’s Memo #035-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 14, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Public Comment Period and Public Hearings on the Proposed 2020 *Family Life Education and Standards of Learning*

On January 23, 2020, the Virginia Board of Education (VDOE) received for first review the proposed revisions to the 2017 *Family Life Education and Standards of Learning.* The proposed 2020 *Family Life Education and Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools* include revisions due to changes to sections [*22.1-207.1:1*](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1%3A1/)and [22.1-207.1.](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter13/section22.1-207.1/)of the *Code of Virginia,* resulting from legislation passed during the 2018 and 2019 Virginia General Assembly sessions.

Six distinct topic areas, identified below, are embedded throughout the proposed revised guidelines:

1. New language added to address the importance of the personal privacy and personal boundaries of other individuals;
2. New language added to address the prevention of sexual harassment using electronic means;
3. New language added to permit instruction to address the prevention, recognition, and awareness of child abduction, child abuse, child sexual exploitation, and child sexual abuse;
4. Revised language to require, rather than permit, instruction to address the law and meaning of consent;
5. New language added to address the prevention of human trafficking; and
6. New language added to address the harmful physical and emotional effects of female genital mutilation, associated criminal penalties, and the rights of the victim including any civil action.

The proposed 2020 *Family Life Education and Standards of Learning* revision can be accessed on the VDOE website: [2020 Proposed Family Life Education and Standards of Learning](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/family_life_education/index.shtml). Public comments regarding the proposed *2020 Family Life Education and Standards of Learning* can be made online at [Public Comments for the 2020 Proposed Family Life Education and Standards of Learning](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRQJWY7) until March 4, 2020, or at either the February 24, 2020, or the March 3, 2020, public hearings. The public hearings will be held at the following locations:

***Monday, February 24, 2020***

6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Colonial Williamsburg Bruton Heights Education Center, 301 1st Street,
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185

***Tuesday, March 3, 2020***

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

William Fleming High School Auditorium, 3649 Ferncliff Avenue NW, Roanoke, Virginia 24017

Registration of speakers will begin 30 minutes prior to the start of the hearing. Speakers will have three minutes to speak and should bring copies of their comments for the Board of Education.

For additional information about the proposed 2020 *Family Life Education and Standards of Learning*, please contact Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist, Office of Special Education and Student Services, by email at Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

JFL/MFM/rge