# Superintendent’s Memo #045-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 21, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

**SUBJECT: Joint Conference of the Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation and the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference**

The Virginia Association for Pupil Transportation (VAPT) and the Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference (SESPTC) will hold a joint conference July 19-22, 2020 in Hampton, Virginia, at the Hampton Convention Center. For 2020, this conference will replace the conference that VAPT holds annually in June.

The SESPTC consists of the 14 southeastern states (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia). It rotates its annual conference among the 14 states, and in most cases holds a joint conference with the host state’s pupil transportation association.

SESPTC is the oldest and one of the most prestigious regional conferences on school transportation in the nation. Since its inception in 1951, SESPTC participants have consistently been at the forefront in promoting safe, secure, effective and efficient transportation of our public school children, and Virginia has been an active supporter of this conference.

The SESPTC Board of Directors met on January 18, 2020 in Hampton, Virginia with representatives from VAPT, to plan the program for the July conference. This first planning meeting will be followed by other conference call planning meetings to complete the program for the conference.

The conference’s program features a Leadership Forum that discusses pupil transportation issues states face and how each state handles them, and representatives from national associations and federal agencies who will provide updated information impacting pupil transportation. Also included is a Trade Show displaying school buses showcasing new technological changes, new products, and equipment used in transporting students, as well as services that can make transporting students easier. Workshops are also held to provide updates on various transportation issues.

The current registration rate for this conference is $175, which includes a delegate and one guest. Lodging will be available at the Embassy Suites next to the Hampton Convention Center at a rate of $129.00 per night, plus taxes.

VAPT is excited about this joint conference, and your support of this event will be greatly appreciated. Additional information about SESPTC can be found on its website at [Southeastern States Pupil Transportation Conference](http://www.sesptc.com/). If you have questions concerning this event, you may contact June Eanes, Delegate Coordinator for SESPTC, at SESPTC@verizon.net or (804) 874-8185.

JFL/aam