# Superintendent’s Memo #064-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: March 13, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Funding Available for Current/Former Youth in Foster Care for Education and Training

There are over 5,000 children and youth in Virginia’s foster care system. Nearly 25 percent are youth ages 16-18 who will soon be approaching their high school graduation. National research indicates only 32 to 45 percent of youth in foster care pursue higher education after high school. However, with your support, youth currently or formerly in foster care can have access to financial resources for postsecondary education and vocational training.

The [Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/fmf/educational.html) administered by the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), **provides federal and state funding to youth and young adults ages 14 – 25 for college or post-secondary vocational training program expenses**. Financial support is available to Virginia students who are currently, or were formerly, in foster care as well as youth who exited foster care through adoption or the [Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title63.2/chapter13/section63.2-1305/) (KinGap; *Code of Virginia* § 63.2-1305) at 16 years of age or older.

Eligible students may participate in the ETV Program for a maximum of five years (regardless of whether or not the years are consecutive), provided they are enrolled in a postsecondary education or training program and making satisfactory progress toward completion of that program. Vouchers of up to $5,000 are available annually for each eligible youth. Program information, including eligibility requirements and the ETV application, can be accessed at [FosterMyFuture](https://www.dss.virginia.gov/fmf/educational.html), VDSS’ dedicated website for youth and young adults currently or formerly in foster care.

School personnel are encouraged to share ETV program information with all eligible students. The ETV posters and other marketing materials are available by request to the ETV Program Office. To request marketing materials or for more information concerning the program, please contact, Letha Moore-Jones, Youth Services Supervisor,Virginia Department of Social Services, bytelephone at (804) 726-7576, or by email at letha.moore-jones@dss.virginia.gov.

JFL/MS/rge