Superintendent’s Memo #102-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 17, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

**SUBJECT: Clarification on the SBAR data collection and the Board of Education’s Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension**

This memo is intended to clear up any confusion regarding changes to the implementation of the Student Behavior and Administrative Response (SBAR) data collection.

The "new student code of conduct," [Model Guidance for Positive and Preventative Code of Student Conduct Policy and Alternatives to Suspension](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/student_conduct/2019-student-code-of-conduct.pdf), became effective once it was approved by the Board of Education (BOE) in January 2019, and went through the public comment period concluding in April 2019. As per Code of Virginia [§ 22.1-279.6(B)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter14/section22.1-279.6/), local school boards are required to adopt and revise regulations on codes of student conduct that "are consistent with, but may be more stringent than" the model guidelines established by the BOE.

The Discipline, Crime and Violence (DCV) data collection will be used for the 2019-20 school year and the 2020-2021 school year to meet the reporting requirements to measure disproportionality, persistently dangerous schools, and safe and gun-free schools.

The new data collection called SBAR (Student Behavior and Administrative Response) will commence for the 2021-2022 school year. DCV will be retired when SBAR is implemented.

While VDOE initially considered launching SBAR for the 2020-2021 school year, it was decided to delay for one school year to address the concerns from school divisions that there simply is not enough time for implementation before the first day of the 2020-2021 school year. In light of the current conditions, VDOE believes it is important for school divisions to focus on other pressing issues facing their schools, teachers and students.

The Office of Data Services will hold SBAR kick-off webinars in early August. Registration information will be available in June.

For questions about the new student code of conduct, please contact Rebecca Kahila at Rebecca.Kahila@doe.virginia.gov.

Questions regarding the DCV or SBAR data collections, should be directed to Office of Data Services at ResultsHelp@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/smw