# Superintendent’s Memo #104-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: April 24, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: School Lunch Hero Day

School Lunch Hero Day is a national celebration to recognize and honor the dedicated school nutrition professionals who prepare healthy and delicious school meals for our students each school day. On Friday, May 1, 2020, join us in celebrating the eighth annual School Lunch Hero Day. This day is a chance to celebrate school nutrition professionals and the positive impact they have on the lives of children across the Commonwealth.

School nutrition professionals were one of the first groups to respond to the needs of children when schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These professionals responded with innovative solutions for feeding children who usually participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The solutions have proven to be tailored and thoughtful so that children are provided meals that are safe, accessible, and available to meet their nutritional needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. School nutrition professionals are on the front line preparing and distributing thousands of meals daily.

Please join us in recognizing the efforts of this dedicated and wonderful group of professionals for their excellent work during the school year and the COVID-19 pandemic. To celebrate School Lunch Hero Day, the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth (VFHY) is recognizing and providing incentives for our school lunch heroes. VDOE is grateful for the VFHY’s effort to recognize our school nutrition staff across the state. Our partnership helps provide good nutrition and food security for our children and communities. We thank them for their collaboration and support.

For more information, ideas for celebrating School Lunch Hero Day, and ways to recognize the school nutrition heroes in your school division, visit the [School Nutrition Association Website](https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/SLHD/).

If you have any questions, please contact the school nutrition program specialist assigned to your division, or Sandy Curwood, PhD, RDN, Director of School Nutrition Programs at sandra.curwood@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2074.

JFL/scc