# Superintendent’s Memo #244-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 18, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Celebrate Virginia Farm to School Week: October 5-9, 2020

The purpose of this memo is to encourage school divisions to participate in Virginia Farm to School Week, October 5-9, 2020, and to recognize October as National Farm to School Month.

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), is hosting a virtual Crunch Heard `Round the Commonwealth to celebrate Virginia’s youth consuming Virginia Grown foods.

On Wednesday, October 7, 2020, all Virginians are encouraged to take a bite out of a Virginia Grown apple. Post photos of Crunch events and tag **@VDOESNP** using **#FarmtoSchool** and **#VACrunch**. The Crunch may be celebrated at any location (i.e., at home in a virtual learning setting, classroom, cafeteria, early care education site, adult day care program, office, outdoors, etc.). Additional information and event planning information can be found by downloading the [digital Farm to School Toolkit](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/nutrition/form/farm-to-school-reg.shtml).

House Joint Resolution No. 692 (2015) designates the first full week in October as Farm to School Week in Virginia. Farm to School connects schools with farmers and local food hubs, providing opportunities to educate students about the importance of consuming fresh, healthy food and the impact local food has on Virginia’s communities. When schools purchase local foods, they can provide reliable, ongoing support to Virginia’s agricultural economy.

School divisions in Virginia can celebrate with locally procured foods featured on school menus, poster contests, virtual farm tours, and online “meet the farmer” events. Schools may also bring Farm to School to the classroom with SOL-based lessons from the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (VA-AITC) featuring [Virginia Harvest of the Month](https://www.agclassroom.org/va/teachers/harvest.cfm) crops. [VA-AITC](https://www.agclassroom.org/va/teachers/grants.cfm) is offering grants to increase student understanding of agriculture. Grant applications are due October 15, 2020.

Visit the [National Farm to School website](http://www.farmtoschool.org/) for additional ideas on celebrating in your division. For more information, please contact Trista Grigsby, Office of School Nutrition Programs Farm to School Specialist, at (804) 225-2331 or Trista.Grigsby@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/SCC/tlg