# Superintendent’s Memo #280-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: October 16, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Navigating EdEquityVA - Equity Audit Tool

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to release the [**Navigating EdEquityVA - Equity Audit Tool**](http://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/edequityva/). This tool is designed to facilitate critical evaluation of education systems and practices through an equity lens. Aligned to Virginia’s 5Cs of EdEquityVA—Continuous Reflection, Compassionate Student and Family Engagement, Curriculum Reframing, Courageous Leadership, and Cultural Responsiveness—the audit tool aids schools and divisions in identifying inequities and establishing equity priorities.

The Department encourages Virginia’s school division leaders to dedicate time, and the resources necessary, to conduct a comprehensive equity audit. Its use will establish a data informed understanding of policies, procedures, and current practices that may induce disparate outcomes, opportunity gaps, and non-inclusive school culture and climate. The essential questions, which are based on the core competencies necessary to advance equity, will help leaders gather equity framed data about student achievement, family engagement, personnel competencies, disproportionality, instructional equity, and more. It is our hope that the **Navigating EdEquityVA - Equity Audit Tool** will support schools and divisions in their efforts to maximize the potential of every Virginia student.

For additional information, please contact Leah Dozier Walker, Director, Office of Equity and Community Engagement at: EdEquityVA@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/LDW