# Superintendent’s Memo #327-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: December 18, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Public Comments for the Proposed *Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools*

In response to [HB 145](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+HB145) and [SB 161](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?201+sum+SB161) that were enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is developing *Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools* to be made available to each school board. The model policies address common issues regarding transgender students in accordance with evidence-based best practices and include information, guidance, procedures, and standards relating to: compliance with applicable nondiscrimination laws; maintenance of a safe and supportive learning environment free from discrimination and harassment for all students; prevention of and response to bullying and harassment; maintenance of student records; identification of students; protection of student privacy and the confidentiality of sensitive information; enforcement of sex-based dress codes; and student participation in sex-specific school activities, events, and use of school facilities.

The development of the model policies and guidelines is a result of collaborations with multiple stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth, including school-based personnel representing diverse Superintendent’s Regions and disciplines, representatives from state professional associations, parent representatives, student representatives, representatives from advocacy organizations, and specialists from VDOE.

The VDOE is soliciting public comments on the Model Policies for the Treatment of *Transgender Students in Virginia’s Public Schools*. The proposed guidance and model policies will be available on [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Public Comment Forums](https://townhall.virginia.gov/l/GDocForum.cfm?GDocForumID=452), and comments can be made online from January 4, 2021 - February 3, 2021.

If you need any additional information, please contact Quyen Duong, Student Services Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at Quyen.Duong@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 786-0720.

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