# SNP Memo #2020-2021-18


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 2, 2020

TO: CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Sponsors

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Virginia Harvest of the Month Campaign for CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Meals Sponsors

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) is pleased to provide Virginia Harvest of the Month (VA HOM) materials to sponsoring organizations of the At-Risk Afterschool Meals component of the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The objective of the VA HOM campaign is to increase children’s consumption and knowledge of Virginia’s seasonal agricultural products. The VA HOM campaign provides resources to enrich At-Risk Afterschool Meals programs with local food features, gardening ideas, and afterschool learning opportunities. Additionally, the User Guide, found as Attachment A and printed in the mailed toolkits, assists with menu planning, procuring, and promoting local foods during your afterschool program.

The VDOE-SNP will provide these toolkits to each site participating in the At-Risk Afterschool Meals programs. The toolkit will be mailed to each sponsoring organization for distribution to their sites and will include: a set of 12 posters each featuring the VA HOM item, reusable point-of-sale signage that highlights the farm of origin, a Virginia Harvest Map from Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, and a User Guide. The toolkit is scheduled to arrive by September 11, 2020.

VA HOM features seasonal vegetables and fruits for each month of the year. The posters include related books to link learning opportunities to the featured items. Additionally, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom has compiled [VA HOM lesson plans](https://agclassroom.org/va/teachers/harvest.cfm) to provide enrichment opportunities in your afterschool meals programs. These enrichment activities are simple and inexpensive ways to promote healthy eating, encourage the taste testing of new foods, and ultimately attract children to afterschool meals programs.

Please contact Trista Grigsby, VDOE-SNP Farm to School Specialist, by phone at (804) 225-2331 or by email at trista.grigsby@doe.virginia.gov or Maggie Parker, VDOE-CNP Manager, by phone at (804) 786-1147 or by email at maggie.parker@doe.virginia.gov with any questions.

SCC/MVP/TG/cc

**Attachment**

A: Virginia Harvest of the Month User Guide