



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 5, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

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

SUBJECT: Virginia Reads One Book: *Cleo Edison Oliver Playground Millionaire*

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to announce [*Virginia Reads One Book 2019*](#). Elementary students and families in participating schools and divisions across the Commonwealth can participate in a statewide family reading event in March 2019.

Every elementary student, in participating schools, along with teachers and all school staff, will be given a copy of this year's chosen title, *Cleo Edison Oliver Playground Millionaire*, by Sundee T. Frazier. This story of entrepreneurship and friendship can be enjoyed by elementary schoolers, while also engaging older students.

On March 1, 2019, a mystery reader from the Washington Redskins will kick off this event with an exclusive video-cast reading of the first chapter of *Cleo Edison Oliver Playground Millionaire*. Each evening, over the following three weeks, students and families will read one chapter a night. Meanwhile, schools celebrate the story with assemblies, daily trivia questions, and activities across all curriculums. [Lessons and activities developed by the Virginia Council on Economic Education](#) will be available to teach basic economics and personal finance concepts aligned with Virginia's Standards of Learning. Family guides with activities that promote family and financial literacy will also be provided. *Virginia Reads One Book* will culminate with countless local celebrations and the chance for groups of students across the state to visit Redskins Park on Kathryn Starke's Tackle Reading Day.

Virginia Reads One Book is provided by [Read to Them](#), a Richmond-based nonprofit whose mission is to create a culture of literacy in every home. Read to Them provides resources that highlight the value of reading aloud along with a host of curriculum, family, and community materials to accompany the selected book. These resources combine to help schools, families, and communities explore and celebrate literature together with the goal that families will make reading together a habit that creates lifelong readers.

Register by January 31, 2019, to participate in *Virginia Reads One Book 2019*. The cost per student is reduced for those registering by October 31, 2018. For more information or to sign up, please visit: readtothem.org/programs/Virginia-reads-one-book or contact Cathy Plageman, Program Coordinator, *Virginia Reads One Book* at cathy.plageman@readtothem.org or by telephone at (804) 334-5872.

JFL/JHN/as