



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE: January 20, 2023

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: **New ENGAGE Virginia Program to Address Chronic Absenteeism**

A new resource is available to school divisions, students, and families to provide outreach and support services to students who are struggling with chronic absenteeism or are academically at-risk. School divisions now have access to the ENGAGE Virginia program offered by Graduation Alliance and funded by the Virginia General Assembly. As schools continue to work to reduce chronic absenteeism, ENGAGE Virginia is a resource that may be beneficial to support students.

School divisions who opt to participate in the program, will be able to refer eligible students to be connected with a personal Academic Success Coach who:

- Reaches out to chronically absent, academically at-risk, and disengaged students to re-engage them with their school division.
- Conducts risk assessments to identify any barriers to school engagement and academic success.
- Works with students regularly to help them navigate academic and life challenges so they can be their best.

ENGAGE Virginia will increase student support without overburdening staff and give educators actionable data insight that will help them triage student outreach. This data is shared with school divisions through a secure dynamic data dashboard, allowing them to provide individualized interventions to students, if appropriate.

ENGAGE Virginia Coaches will work collaboratively with students and families in order to provide the support best suited to student's individual needs. Outreach Counselors interact with parents first when initiating contact with referred students. Throughout the program, Academic Success Coaches work closely with parents to learn about how to best support their children and maintain ongoing communications with parents on student progress and the results of support/coaching.

ENGAGE Virginia is available for students and families through 2023.

Interested school divisions should [attend one of our upcoming webinars](#) on Jan. 26, Jan. 27, or Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. or Feb. 1 at 1 p.m. Register in advance for the 30-minute informational webinar. Questions may be directed to EngageVA@GraduationAlliance.com.

For more information, contact Rebecca Hall, Standards of Accreditation Coordinator, at 804-786-7018 or Rebecca.Hall@doe.virginia.gov.

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