# SNP Memo #2023-2024-23


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 15, 2023

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

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

## SUBJECT: 2023 Virginia Food for Virginia Kids Cohort Announcement

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) is pleased to announce the 2023 Virginia Food for Virginia Kids (VFVK) Cohort for School Year (SY) 2023–2024.

## Background

The VDOE-SNP VFVK initiative builds on the commitment and capacity of Virginia school divisions to increase scratch cooking and serve more fresh, seasonal, and culturally inclusive meals. VFVK directly supports school food authorities (SFAs) while weaving in workforce development initiatives to bolster the school nutrition workforce. Each year, the VDOE-SNP works with eight new SFAs interested in, and committed to, operational change in the areas of scratch cooking, local food procurement, and culturally inclusive meal offerings. This unique opportunity combines strategic planning, hands-on training, and in-person technical assistance.

## SY 2023–2024 VFVK Cohort

The VDOE-SNP selected the new VFVK Cohort based on each division’s commitment, need, and operational capacity to engage in activities and each division's identified growth opportunities as indicated in SFAs application responses as well as each division’s history of leadership within their Superintendent region. The selected divisions also meet the eligibility requirements of being self-operational and are in good programmatic standing. The following divisions have been selected for the SY 2023–2024 VFVK Cohort:

* Chesterfield County Public Schools; Region 1
* Suffolk City Public Schools; Region 2
* King George County; Region 3
* Fairfax County Public Schools; Region 4
* Amherst County Public Schools; Region 5
* Harrisonburg City Public Schools; Region 5
* Radford City Public Schools; Region 7
* Prince Edward County Public Schools; Region 8

## Support for all Divisions

The VDOE-SNP would like to extend its gratitude to all division applicants and recognizes that there are many SFAs committed to increasing scratch cooking, local procurement, and culturally inclusive meal offerings. To support all SFAs with these efforts, the VDOE-SNP is developing additional opportunities for assistance. These opportunities will be less intensive than VFVK Cohort activities and will be open to all Virginia SFAs. More details regarding these opportunities are forthcoming.

## For more information

For more information, please contact Bee Thorp, Lead Farm to School Specialist, via email at Brittany.Thorp@doe.Virginia.gov.

SCC/BHT/cc