



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

July 29, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: The Virginia General Assembly Senate and House of Delegates Page Programs**

This memorandum provides information regarding the Virginia General Assembly Senate and House of Delegates Page Programs offered by the Senate and the House of Delegates each year during the Virginia General Assembly Session. This department continues to receive questions regarding the classification of absences for students across the commonwealth as they participate in these programs.

The Board of Education amended Virginia's *Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records* to give local school boards greater authority for determining circumstances under which the absence of students should be counted. These board regulations, effective March 28, 2001, allow a student to be counted as present if he or she is in attendance for activities and events approved by the school board. A student may be counted as present if participating as a page in the Virginia General Assembly as long as the local school board has approved it. In addition, no student participating in the page programs should be withdrawn from school as long as the local school board has approved the activity. (Please see [8VAC20-110-40](#) and [8VAC20-110-50](#) of these regulations).

You will find information about the page programs at <http://capclass.virginiageneralassembly.gov/PagePrograms/PagePrograms.html>. Please contact G. Paul Nardo, Clerk of the House of Delegates, at 804-698-1619 or Susan Clarke Scharr, Clerk of the Senate, at 804-698-7400 if you need additional information about these programs. In addition, you may contact this department's Office of Policy at 804-225-2092 or by email at [Policy@DOE.virginia.gov](mailto:Policy@DOE.virginia.gov) if you have any questions regarding these absences.

SRS/SGP/bj

c: The Honorable G. Paul Nardo

The Honorable Susan Clarke Scharr