



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

October 7, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: National School Lunch Week - October 10-14, 2016

The National School Lunch Program has been providing nutritious, cost-effective meals to students during the school day for more than 70 years. Schools around the nation and throughout the Commonwealth will be celebrating National School Lunch Week, October 10-14, 2016. The theme, School Lunch: Show Your Spirit is designed to invite students, parents, school staff and administrators to celebrate school meals. School divisions in Virginia plan to recognize National School Lunch Week with special menus, invitations to special guests, and activities that encourage students to show their spirit for school lunch.

School lunches provide fruits, vegetables, and whole grain rich foods daily to nearly 700,000 students in Virginia. The federally-funded National School Lunch Program offers meals that model the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. And students can use the school cafeteria as a learning laboratory to practice healthful eating and implement the nutrition lessons of [MyPlate](#).

More information about the National School Lunch Program can be found on the U.S Department of Agriculture [website](#). National School Lunch Week is sponsored by the non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA). Visit the [SNA website](#) for ideas and information about the Show Your Spirit celebration.

For questions, please contact the school nutrition program specialist assigned to your division, or Sandra C. Curwood, MS, RDN, Director of School Nutrition Programs, at sandra.curwood@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-2074.

SRS/SCC/idl