



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

October 18, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents


FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Virginia Department of Education Sponsored “*ParentCamp*” for Parents and School Division Personnel**

The Virginia Department of Education through the Family Engagement Network is hosting a *ParentCamp* on Thursday, November 3, 2016. The Department of Education encourages school division staff to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

*ParentCamp* is the unconference to build family, school and community partnerships. It is called an unconference because the event relies upon the expertise and perspective of the entire room, not just the presenter like the typical stand and deliver conference. Every adult within the session brings an important and unique perspective to contribute to sharing strategies and ideas to benefit student learning, teaching and parenting.

The importance of family involvement in schools is well documented. Over 30 years of research shows that one of the most effective ways to increase student achievement is for parents to be actively involved in the education of their children. Family involvement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, two-way communication, and collaboration between families, schools and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure maximum achievement and success.

For more information please see the attached flyer or register for ParentCamp by visiting:  
[www.parentcampva.eventbrite.com](http://www.parentcampva.eventbrite.com) .

SRS:lw

Attachments:

- A. [ParentCamp for Parents and School Division Personnel](#) (PDF)