



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

January 23, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week, February 2-6, 2015

The Virginia Department of Education is pleased to recognize professional school counselors during the week of February 2-6, 2015, in celebration of National School Counseling Week. The week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing academic concerns, personal/social skills, and career awareness for postsecondary options. Comprehensive school counseling programs help to increase student achievement and are a vital part of the educational process for all students.

School divisions are encouraged to join the Department of Education in recognizing Virginia school counselors for their dedication to students' educational success. Should you have any questions, please contact Joseph Wharff, school counseling career connections specialist, Office of Career and Technical Education, by e-mail at Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at 804-225-3370.

SRS/LBH/JAW/cmc