



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

February 20, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Revisions to the Board of Education's *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes*, House Bills 410 and 1096 and Senate Bill 172, of the 2014 General Assembly**

The 2014 Acts of Assembly ([House Bills 410](#) and [1096](#) and [Senate Bill 172](#)) require the Virginia Board of Education to amend the [Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes](#) to include:

- information on the effects of concussions on student-athletes' academic performance and "Return to Learn Protocols"; and
- define "non-interscholastic youth sports program" and require such programs utilizing public school property to either (i) establish policies and procedures regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes, consistent with either the local school division's policies or the Board's guidelines or (ii) follow the local school division's policy.

On January 22, 2015, the Board of Education adopted the [Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes](#).

The Department of Education requests that the information in this memorandum be shared with school boards, athletic departments, and other members of the education community. The amended guidelines for policies on concussion will impact school divisions administratively since policies and procedures must be developed regarding gradual return to full participation in academic activities; provide training for staff on the effects of concussions on student-athlete's academic performance; and work with non-interscholastic youth sports programs utilizing public school property to establish policies regarding the identification and handling of suspected concussions in student-athletes consistent with either the local school division's policies and procedures or the Board of Education's *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes*.

For additional information about the *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Student-Athletes*, please contact Vanessa Wigand, principal specialist for health, physical, and driver education and athletics, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at [Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov) or by telephone at (804) 225-3300.

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