



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

November 7, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: School Psychology Awareness Week (November 10–14, 2014)

The Virginia Department of Education joins the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in celebrating School Psychology Awareness Week, November 10-14, 2014. As schools and school divisions continue to strive to achieve excellence in education by ensuring that every student is ready to learn and every teacher is empowered to teach, the contributions of school psychologists are noteworthy.

School psychologists work with students, teachers, administrators, and families to support the academic achievement, positive behavior, social-emotional wellness, and resiliency of all students, especially those who struggle with barriers to learning. School psychologists help schools and families address some of our biggest challenges in education: improving and individualizing instruction to close the achievement gap; increasing graduation rates and preventing dropouts; creating safe, supportive school climates; and strengthening home-school partnerships. (NASP 2010)

School psychologists play a critical role in promoting the school and life success of all students. I encourage you to join me in celebrating School Psychology Awareness Week with your school psychologists.

Questions regarding school psychological services may be directed to Maribel Saimre, via e-mail at Maribel.Saimre@doe.virginia.gov; telephone (804) 692-0396.

SRS/MS/nlc