



**#155-22**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #155-22**

DATE: July 22, 2022  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Release of July 1, 2022, School-Age Population Estimates**

Pursuant to [Section 58.1-638, Code of Virginia](#), the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia has prepared the July 1, 2021, school-age population estimates. These estimates will be used to update the fiscal year (FY) 2024 sales tax revenue distribution estimates to school divisions in the Governor's amended 2022-2024 biennial budget, to be released in December 2022. FY 2024 funding distributions based on the July 1, 2021, school-age population estimates will not be released until the Governor's budget release in December 2022. Please note that the distribution of actual sales tax receipts to school divisions on a semi-monthly basis in FY 2024 will also be based on the July 1, 2021, school-age population estimates.

**Attachment A** to this memo includes a table that displays total and percent change of school-age population by school division from 2020 to 2021. This table, along with the detailed information from the Weldon Cooper Center referenced below, will assist divisions with the estimation of changes to their FY 2024 sales tax distributions as well as assist with the technical reviews of the proposed population estimates. Please note that data for Alleghany County and Covington City are shown separately in the attachment. These school divisions consolidated into Alleghany Highlands Public Schools, effective July 1, 2022.

The sales tax revenue distribution for FY 2023 will continue to be based on the previously released July 1, 2020, school-age population estimates; please see [Superintendent's Memo No. 192-21](#) for more information.

## Weldon Cooper Center School-Age Population Estimates as of July 1, 2021

A data file containing the July 1, 2021, school-age population estimate for each division (including the required special education child counts) and a document providing an overview of the methodology used by the Weldon Cooper Center in producing the estimates have been posted on the [Weldon Cooper Center's website](#). The availability of the estimates has also been announced to local governments via the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO).

Weldon Cooper Center's estimates of school-age population (5- to 19-year-olds) as of July 1, 2021, utilize U.S. Census Bureau population estimates as of July 1, 2021, with adjustments as required by the *Code of Virginia*, to account for 18- and 19-year-olds living at a college or on a military base outside the locality where their parents/guardians reside. These estimates have been updated to incorporate the data from the 2020 Census. Pursuant to Section 58.1-638 D., the Virginia Department of Education added the number of special education students (ages 2 through 4 and 20 through 21) as reported on the December 1, 2021, special education child count to the Weldon Cooper Center's estimates. The Weldon Cooper Center provides a full description of their estimation methodology at the webpage referenced above.

## Weldon Cooper Center Review Process

The July 1, 2021, school-age population estimates are open to review and inquiry until September 30, 2022, at which time they become final. School divisions and localities may inquire about a revision to their estimates provided certain criteria as established by the Weldon Cooper Center are met.

To participate in the review process, division and locality representatives should review their school-age population estimates, the methodology documents, and the Review/Inquiry Process description, available on the [Weldon Cooper Center website](#).

School division and locality representatives are urged to initiate the review and inquiry process (if any of the conditions for revision are met) by contacting the Weldon Cooper Center as soon as possible so that additional considerations can be submitted by the conclusion of the process on September 30, 2022. After this date, the estimates will be considered final and will be used in FY 2024 to allocate to divisions the one and one-eighth percent state sales and use tax dedicated to public education.

The Weldon Cooper Center contact for questions is:

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Please carefully review the proposed estimates of your school-age population and keep in mind the end of the review process on September 30, 2022, at which time the estimates become final.

### For more information

If you have questions related to the review process, please contact Hamilton Lombard of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at [Hamilton.Lombard@virginia.edu](mailto:Hamilton.Lombard@virginia.edu). If you have questions related to how population estimates are used in state funding for public education, please contact the Budget Office at [doebudgetoffice@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:doebudgetoffice@doe.virginia.gov).

JB/eml

- A. Attachment: [School-Age Population Estimates - Total and Percent Change 2020 to 2021](#)  
(XLSX)