# Superintendent’s Memo #013-21


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 22, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week, February 1-5, 2021

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would like to recognize professional school counselors during the week of February 1-5, 2021, as we celebrate National School Counseling Week.

As vital members of the education team, professional school counselors are agents of equity for students across the Commonwealth. Comprehensive, data-driven school counseling programs improve a range of student learning and behavioral outcomes. School counselors close achievement gaps and maximize student success by providing academic and career development interventions, psychosocial counseling, and mental/behavioral health supports. Information on school counseling in Virginia can be found on the VDOE [School Counseling and Advisement](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/school_counseling/index.shtml)  web page.

The [American School Counselor Association](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/) (ASCA), as well as the [Virginia School Counselor Association](https://vsca.wildapricot.org/) (VSCA) have resources for those looking to celebrate and acknowledge the work school counselors do on behalf of students.

School divisions are encouraged to join VDOE in recognizing Virginia school counselors for their dedication to students' educational success. Should you have any questions, contact
Sarah Bazemore, School Counseling Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at Sarah.Bazemore@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-4024.

JFL/SB/rge