# Superintendent’s Memo #016-21


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 22, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Virginia Kindness Week, February 14-20, 2021

In honor of Virginia Kindness Week, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is encouraging schools to promote and celebrate kindness during the week of February 14-20, 2021.

The purpose of Kindness Week is to recognize that simple day-to-day acts of kindness enable our schools, communities, and state to be a kinder, safer, healthier, and more inclusive place to live, work, learn, and play. “Teaching and recognizing kindness in schools and communities fosters empathy, builds community, reduces bullying, and nurtures a safe and welcoming environment” ([Currie, 2015](https://www.edutopia.org/blog/teaching-kindness-essential-reduce-bullying-lisa-currie)). By promoting kindness, we are promoting inclusivity by extending an opportunity for grace, empathy, dignity, and acceptance across Virginia.

Schools can access resources to plan their Kindness Week initiatives on the VDOE’s [Kindness Week webpage](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/prevention/social-emotional/kindness/index.shtml). Additionally, we are excited to announce that the Virginia Department of Education has been recognized as a [Kindness Certified State Department of Education](https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/kindness-certified-state-department-of-education) by the Great Kindness Challenge. We hope you will consider becoming a [Kindness Certified School Division](https://thegreatkindnesschallenge.com/kindness-certified-school-districts).

For questions about Virginia Kindness Week, contact Sarah Bazemore, School Counseling Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at [Sarah.Bazemore@doe.virginia.gov](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cnmk13107%5CDownloads%5CSarah.Bazemore%40doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 225-4024.

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