# Superintendent’s Memo #028-21


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 1, 2021

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: Public Comments for the Proposed *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students*

In response to [HB 1930](https://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?191+ful+CHAP0142) that was enacted by the 2019 Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Board of Education is biennially updating the *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students* to be made available to each school board. The proposed guidelines include current research and foster equitable, supportive, and safe academic and physical environments and encourage the engagement of all families in the health and academic lives of their children.

The development of the revised *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students* is a result of collaborations with multiple stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth, including clinicians, neuroscientists, researchers, the Virginia High School League, and other key stakeholders identified in the legislation**.** The Concussion Review Committee’s recommendations included in Attachments A and B add more progressive research-based approaches to physical rest, return to learning and screen time; support a multidisciplinary management approach with appropriate health care providers directing the student’s recovery in collaboration with educational professionals differentiating academic supports that allow students to heal while continuing their education; and add physical therapists licensed by the Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to the Board of Education’s list of appropriate licensed health care providers.

The VDOE is soliciting public comments on the revised *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students*. Comments can be made via email, instruction@doe.virginia.gov, from February 5, 2021-March 12, 2021.

If you need any additional information, please contact Vanessa Wigand, Coordinator for Health Education, Office of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Innovation, by email at Vanessa.Wigand@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3300.

JFL/VCW/ra-b

Attachments

A: [Virginia Board of Education *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students* -Strikethrough and Underline Version](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2021/028-21a.docx) (Word)

B. [Virginia Board of Education *Guidelines for Policies on Concussions in Students*](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2021/028-21b.docx) (Word)