



#098-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #098-21**

DATE: April 13, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Virginia LEARNS Guidance Document Released**

A school-reopening workgroup appointed in February by Superintendent of Public Instruction James Lane released a guidance and resource document Monday to guide schools and divisions as they resume or expand in-person instruction and plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

[*Navigating Virginia Education in Uncertain Times*](#) provides recommendations and identifies resources and best practices related to equity, curricula – especially in literacy and mathematics – remediation and intervention strategies, assessments, data analysis, student and staff wellness, and technology to support instruction and learning.

In developing the guidance and resource document, the Virginia LEARNS (Leading, Engaging, Assessing, Recovering, Nurturing and Succeeding) workgroup – which included educators, school administrators, mental health professionals, parents and leaders of community organizations – analyzed comments from members of the public and input from school division staff.

“This winter, stakeholders representing a variety of perspectives and experiences came together to form the Virginia LEARNS workgroup to map the way forward for the commonwealth’s schools as they continue their journey through these extraordinary times while striving to support the success of every student,” Lane said. “I am incredibly grateful for their willingness to serve on the Virginia LEARNS workgroup and for lending their expertise and time to this important initiative.”

The Virginia LEARNS workgroup used the Virginia Department of Education's July 2020 [Recover, Redesign, Restart 2020](#) guidance document as its starting point in creating the new reopening resource for school divisions.

The *Navigating Virginia in Uncertain Times* document identifies checkpoints on key issues related to reopening schools and provides recommendations for reflection and action at the classroom, school and central office levels. The document also includes links to relevant resources vetted by VDOE staff.

The recommendations emphasize the importance of equity in decision-making and prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable students in assessing and addressing learning losses. Assessing and supporting the social and emotional health of students are emphasized in all aspects of reopening.

For more information

Questions may be directed to Dr. Linda Reviea, Special Projects Coordinator, Division of School Quality, Instruction and Performance, by phone at (804) 786-5834 or via email at Linda.Reviea@doe.virginia.gov.

JFL/LGR

Resource: [Navigating Virginia Education in Uncertain Times](#) (PDF)