



#197-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #197-21**

DATE: July 23, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Guidance for the Provision of Specialized Student Support Positions in Virginia Public Schools**

The 2021 General Assembly Session passed Senate Bill 1257 to amend and reenact §§ [22.1-253.13:2](#) and [22.1-274](#) of the *Code of Virginia*, relating to the Standards of Quality. A section was added to § [22.1-253.13:2](#): Standard 2 Instructional, administrative, and support personnel as follows:

O. "Each school board shall provide at least three specialized student support positions per 1,000 students. For purposes of this subsection, specialized student support positions include school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts, and other licensed health and behavioral positions, which may either be employed by the school board or provided through contracted services."

§ [22.1-274](#) of the *Code of Virginia* was also amended to reflect the addition of this subsection. This change becomes effective with the 2021-2022 school year.

The Virginia Department of Education has developed a guidance document to assist school divisions in meeting this legislation, including defining Specialized Student Support positions, what constitutes "other licensed health and behavioral positions," and information about funding for the positions.

The [Guidance for the Provision of Specialized Student Support Positions in Virginia Public Schools](#) can be accessed on the [Student and School Support webpage](#).

For more information

For additional information, please contact Joseph Wharff, Associate Director, Office of Student Services, by email at Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-3370.

JFL/JW/rge