



#260-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #260-21**

DATE: September 10, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Virginia General Assembly Page Program and Classification of Absences Due to Participation**

This memorandum is to inform divisions of an opportunity for students to participate in the Virginia General Assembly Page Programs offered by the Senate and the House of Delegates each year during the Virginia General Assembly Session. This program, which was temporarily suspended during the 2021 session due to COVID-19, will be available to students again in 2022. Additionally, this memo clarifies how schools and divisions should account for absences accrued by participating students.

The purpose of the Page Programs is to facilitate a structured environment in which young Virginians embrace responsibility and accountability, develop professional characteristics through strict standards of conduct and engage in the legislative process through work, observation and discussion. More information on the program, eligibility, and application can be found on the Virginia [Senate and House Page Programs webpage](#).

Divisions should refer to the Board of Education's [Regulations Governing Pupil Accounting Records](#) on how to address student absences if participating in one the programs. These regulations were amended to give local school boards greater authority for determining circumstances under which the absence of students should be counted and allow a student to be counted as present if he or she is attending activities and events approved by the school

board. A student may be counted as present if serving as a page in the Virginia General Assembly so long as the local school board has approved the program. Further, providing local school board approval, no student participating in the page programs should be withdrawn from school. Please see [8VAC20-110-40](#) and [8VAC20-110-50](#) to read the full text of these regulations.

For more information

You will find information about the page programs at [Virginia Senate and House Page Programs](#). If you have questions about the House of Delegates Page Program, contact Elizabeth Mancano, House of Delegates Clerk's Office, at (804) 698-1502 or emancano@house.virginia.gov. For questions about the Senate Page Program, please email pageinfo@senate.virginia.gov.

In addition, you may contact this Department's Office of Policy at (804) 225-2092 or by email at policy@doe.virginia.gov if you have any questions about absences.

JFL/rsa