



#288-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #288-21**

DATE: October 15, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **National School Psychology Week**

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) joins the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in celebrating [National School Psychology Week \(NSPW\)](#) during the week of November 8-12, 2021. The acronym GEAR (Grow, Engage, Advocate, and Rise) is this year's theme, "***Let's Get in GEAR,***" challenges us to **grow** both personally and professionally. It encourages us to **engage** in best practices, and **advocate** for children's access to mental health and learning supports. To **rise** implies resilience and renewal despite the challenges of the past.

After what has been a long and challenging year for many, students and adults alike find themselves stuck in a rut or even regressing. We hope to connect students and staff to show that if they "***Get in GEAR***" together, it can lead to substantial positive change for all involved. Central to this theme is the importance of the relationships between all students, staff, faculty, and parents within a school building. This theme is perfect for any school that is actively looking to positively impact their school climate. Please visit the NASP's [Suggested Activities for Working with Students and Adults webpage](#) for ideas to help you and your students thrive.

For more information

For information or questions about National School Psychology Week or school psychology services, contact Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

JFL/MFM/rge