



#108-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #108-21**

DATE: April 30, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education (SLIFE) - Definition, Supports, and Data Collection**

[Senate Bill 933](#) from Virginia's 2020 General Assembly tasked the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to create a statewide definition of the term "students with limited or interrupted formal education." The legislation requires local school divisions to report on the number of students who fall under such definition as part of the required data collection and reporting on average daily membership for the purposes of documenting any changes in such numbers over time.

To comport with this legislation, the VDOE has developed a proposed definition of SLIFE as –
A student with limited and/or interrupted formal education is an English learner who:

- enters or re-enters any school in the United States at or after the age of eight; AND
- is identified at English Language Proficiency (ELP) Level One or Two; AND
- has at least two years less schooling than their similar-age peers.

This proposed definition and supporting technical resources were shared with the Virginia Board of Education at their April 22, 2021 meeting and is provided to divisions through the [SLIFE Guidebook](#) found on the [English Learner Education](#) webpage. The proposed SLIFE definition will be posted on April 26, 2021, in the [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall](#) for a 30-day public comment period.

To comply with this new legislative requirement, divisions will be asked to update local data collection and report SLIFE data to the VDOE, beginning with the Fall 2021 Student Record Collection process.

The VDOE has prepared a technical support and resource document for divisions as they work to identify and provide quality instructional programs for SLIFE. Additional, ongoing technical assistance and professional development will be provided by the VDOE.

Senate Bill 933 (2020) also tasked the Board of Education to evaluate the supports and programs available to SLIFE in local school divisions, and determine whether the calculations for the school quality indicators within the Board's Regulations Establishing the Standards for Accrediting (SOA) Public Schools in Virginia are appropriate or whether changes in methodology could be made to more comprehensively measure the academic and nonacademic achievement of such student population. The data collected from school divisions will be used to support the Board's consideration of necessary changes to the SOA.

For more information

For questions about data collection, please email resultshelp@doe.virginia.gov.

For questions about accountability, please email accountability@doe.virginia.gov.

For questions about policy, please email policy@doe.virginia.gov.

For questions about instruction, please contact Dr. Jessica Costa, English Learner Instructional Specialist, at Jessica.Costa@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 786-3927.

For questions about student identification or Title III, please contact Louise Marks, Title III Coordinator, at Louise.Marks@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2901.

JFL/JAC/eir