



**#178-21**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #178-21**

DATE: July 2, 2021  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Guidance Standards Available to Virginia School Divisions**

The Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) [Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Guidance Standards](#) are now available to Virginia school divisions. As a result of [House Bill 753](#), passed during the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, the VDOE established a uniform definition of social emotional learning and developed guidance standards for social emotional learning for all public students in grades Kindergarten through grade twelve in the Commonwealth.

While the 2020 General Assembly required the Department to develop the guidance standards for SEL, Virginia school divisions are not required to adopt them. Local school boards may choose to adopt all, or portions of, the Virginia SEL Guidance Standards as part of their own local policies, and/or use them as guidance as they implement SEL programming based on the needs of their community.

The VDOE recognizes that the implementation of SEL looks different across Virginia school divisions and that significant planning and preparation are needed to support effective implementation. To support school divisions in this process, the VDOE has developed the [SEL Guidance Standards webpage](#) that houses additional tools and resources to assist with implementation. Additional resources such as the "*Building Foundational Support for SEL*" document and the curriculum frameworks for each grade band, which provide a road map

for how the Standards could be explicitly taught, will be added in the coming weeks. Additionally, the VDOE is planning professional learning modules and a series of webinars to assist educators in the different phases of implementation. School divisions are encouraged to continue to check the [SEL Guidance Standards webpage](#) for updates throughout the summer months.

### For more information

For additional information about the Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Guidance Standards, please contact Martha Montgomery, by email at [Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

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