



#251-22

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #251-22

DATE: October 28, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Annual Resources for Serving Students with Sensory Disabilities**

The Virginia Department of Education is required to annually prepare and distribute to local school boards information describing the educational and other services that are available to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired. The [Code of Virginia at § 22.1-217.01](#) requires school boards to annually post this information on school division websites to inform the parents of students who are identified as deaf, hard of hearing, or visually impaired of the availability of such services. Specifically, the law states:

“The Department of Education shall annually prepare and distribute to local school boards packets of information describing the educational and other services available through the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind, the Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing, and the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired to students who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing or visually impaired. Local school boards shall annually post this information on the school division’s website and inform the parents of those students who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing or visually impaired of its availability. School boards shall ensure that packets of such information are available in an accessible format for review by parents who do not have Internet access.”

Attachment A is a compilation of the required guidance documents and additional resources that are available through the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE's) [Sensory Disabilities webpage](#). Administrators and teachers may reprint the VDOE's guidance and information to share with parents. School divisions may also provide printed copies as well as alternate formats in public schools and public libraries.

For more information

For questions regarding this guidance, contact Wanda Council, Education Specialist for Sensory Disabilities, Office of Instructional Services, by telephone at (804) 371-4059, or by email at Wanda.Council@doe.virginia.gov.

JB/WC/sp

- A. Attachment: [Annual Resources for Serving Students with Sensory Disabilities \(Revised October 2022\)](#) (DOCX)