# Superintendent’s Memo #169-19


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: July 19, 2019

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction

## SUBJECT: Virginia Awarded Acceptance to the Collaborating States Initiative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has accepted and will be participating in the Collaborating States Initiative (CSI) sponsored through the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL). The CSI is a community of practice designed to help state education agencies develop goals, guidelines, and plans that advance social emotional learning (SEL) statewide. Virginia’s efforts are driven by the commitment to ensure that every student in Virginia attends a school that maximizes their potential and prepares them for the future: academically, socially, and emotionally.

The research on [the impact of social emotional learning](https://casel.org/impact/) demonstrates that SEL programming has a positive impact on academic performance, school attendance, disciplinary outcomes, and mental wellness. Through participation in the CASEL CSI, Virginia is continuing to increase the shared understanding of the critical features of SEL practices and related initiatives, provide guidance on the implementation of evidence-based SEL programming within the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS) framework, and develop a tool to assess fidelity of implementation of SEL.

The [CASEL](https://casel.org/resources-support/) website has tools and resources that provide guidance and support for divisions and schools to implement high quality, evidence-based SEL in their communities.

For more information about social emotional learning, please 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.

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