# Superintendent’s Memo #052-20


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: February 28, 2020

TO: Division Superintendents

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

## SUBJECT: National School Social Work Week (March 1-7, 2020)

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) joins the School Social Work Association of America (SSWAA), the American Council of School Social Work (ACSSW), and the National Association of Social Work (NASW) in celebrating School Social Work Week, March 1-7, 2020. The theme for this year’s School Social Work Week is *“Beacon of Hope: School Social Workers – Lighting the Way.”*

School social workers provide a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of students through early identification, prevention, intervention, counseling, and support to ensure academic success and educational equity for every student. Working collaboratively with school personnel and parents, they reduce or eliminate the social, emotional, economic, and environmental barriers to maximize the potential of all learners.

School social workers are trained to use a wide range of evidence-based, professional strategies to enhance school climate and ensure student success. They are the link between the home, school, and community in providing direct as well as indirect services to students, families, and school personnel. A school social worker addresses a wide range of issues that impede students’ learning, including attendance, truancy, bullying, drug use, and mental health problems.

Join the VDOE in recognizing School Social Work Week and take a moment to celebrate and support school social workers, recognizing the vital role of school social workers in students’ learning.

For questions regarding school social work services, please contact Quyen Duong, Student Services Specialist, by email at Quyen.Duong@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at
(804) 786-0720.

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