# SNP Memo #2020-2021-24


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: September 16, 2020

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Release of Online Training Module, *Local School Wellness Policy: Completing the Triennial Assessment*

The purpose of this memo is to announce the release of the online training module, *Local School Wellness Policy: Completing the Triennial Assessment*, developed by the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP). The interactive module includes six segments and takes approximately one hour to complete. Participants who complete the module and quiz will receive one hour of professional development and a certificate of completion. The module is available on the [VDOE-SNP Professional Development webpage](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/nutrition/index.shtml).

### Background of the Local School Wellness Policy

A Local School Wellness Policy (LSWP)is a written document that guides a local educational agency’s (LEA’s) or school division’s efforts to establish a school environment that promotes student health, wellbeing, and ability to learn.

The LSWP requirement was established by the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 and additional guidelines were implemented in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. Each LEA participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast Program (SBP) is required to develop a LSWP. The responsibility for developing, implementing, and evaluating a LSWP is placed at the division or school level.

### Background of the Triennial Assessment

At least once every three years LEAs must assess their LSWP on the extent to which schools are in compliance with the division policy, the extent to which the LSWP compares to a model wellness policy, and the progress made towards attaining the goals of the LSWP. The Alliance for a Healthier Generation’s Model Wellness Policy template is in compliance with the requirements set forth in the Final Rule and is recommended as the model wellness policy. LEAs must make the Triennial Assessment available to the public and make appropriate updates and/or modifications to the LSWP based on the Triennial Assessment results.

### Triennial Assessment Waiver

The first Triennial Assessment was due on June 30, 2020; however, due to the impact of COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Agriculture offered an extension of the deadline to June 30, 2021. Divisions that elected to postpone completion of the Triennial Assessment have until June 30, 2021, to complete the assessment.

Please contact your assigned SNP regional specialist or the VDOE-SNP Wellness Policy Specialist, Laura Burns, via email at laura.burns@doe.virginia.gov with any questions related to the LSWP Triennial Assessment.

SCC/LB/cc