



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
**Department of Education**

DATE: November 9, 2018

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: James F. Lane, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: School Psychology Awareness Week November 12-16, 2018

The Virginia Department of Education joins the Virginia Academy of School Psychologists (VASP) and the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) in celebrating School Psychology Awareness Week (SPAW), November 12-16, 2018. This year's theme is "***Unlock Potential. Find Your Password!***" A password is a personal key for unlocking any number of areas of potential in our lives. School psychologists are particularly skilled at assisting students and staff in unlocking the resources, proactive and preventive skills, and positive connections necessary to unlock one's full potential to thrive in school and life. A password can help us set goals, identify action steps, communicate need, and engage in discussions to help create the connections necessary for students to develop critical academic and social emotional skills. (NASP, 2018) The program involves a series of resources and suggested activities to help the school staff, students and parents use the theme to convey the variety of factors that contribute to thriving students and school communities. From sample newsletters, to interactive classroom activities, to press releases, there are multiple ways to bring the "[Unlock Potential. Find Your Password!](#)" theme to your local community.

As you celebrate your School Psychologists this week, please be sure to share your activities with us @VDOE\_News and through the [SPAW feedback form](#).

Questions regarding school psychological services may be directed to Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist, by email at [Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone (804) 692-0396.

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