



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

DATE: October 5, 2018
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **National School Lunch Week: October 15-19, 2018**

Schools around the nation and throughout the Commonwealth will be celebrating National School Lunch Week, October 15-19, 2018. This year's theme, "School Lunch: Lots 2 Love", is designed to invite students, parents, school staff and administrators to celebrate school meals.

The National School Lunch Program provides students daily access to healthy school meals. School divisions in Virginia plan to recognize National School Lunch Week with special menus, invitations to special guests, and activities that encourage students to demonstrate the importance of school lunch and the connection between healthy eating and academic success.

School lunches provide fruits, vegetables, milk, protein, and whole grain rich foods daily to nearly 700,000 students in Virginia. The federally-funded National School Lunch Program offers meals that model the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Students can use the school cafeteria as a learning laboratory to practice healthful eating and implement the nutrition lessons available on the [USDA MyPlate website](#).

More information about the National School Lunch Program can be found on the [U.S. Department of Agriculture website](#). National School Lunch Week is sponsored by the nonprofit School Nutrition Association (SNA). Visit the [SNA website](#) for ideas and information about the *Lots 2 Love* celebration.

If you have questions, please contact the school nutrition program specialist assigned to your school division, or Sandy Curwood, Director of School Nutrition Programs, at sandra.curwood@doe.virginia.gov or (804) 225-2074.

JFL/SCC/lj