



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education**

January 27, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: National School Counseling Week, February 6-10, 2017**

The Virginia Department of Education would like to recognize professional school counselors during the week of February 6-10, 2017, as we celebrate National School Counseling Week. This year's theme, sponsored by the [American School Counselor Association](#) (ASCA), is entitled "School Counseling: Helping Students Realize Their Potential," and highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. To help you promote the week, ASCA has developed many materials and documents, a number of which are free.

School counselors work with all students to remove barriers to learning by addressing academic concerns, social/emotional issues, and career awareness for postsecondary options. Comprehensive and developmental school counseling programs help to increase student achievement and are a vital part of the educational process for all students.

School divisions are encouraged to join the Department of Education in recognizing Virginia school counselors for their dedication to students' educational success. Should you have any questions, please contact Joseph Wharff, School Counseling Specialist, Office of Student Services, by email at [Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Joseph.Wharff@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 225-3370.

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