COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 21, 2017

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Website Accessibility Resources and Tools for School Divisions

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is committed to maintaining a website that is accessible to all — including people with disabilities — and to meeting or exceeding all state and national accessibility standards.

Currently, the VDOE website meets W3C's WCAG 1.0 Level A and current federal Rehabilitation Act Section 508 standards. The agency is working towards WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance, which will be the new standard for government websites, effective January 18, 2018.

As part of this process, the agency has identified resources and tools school and school division webmasters may use to:

- Increase their knowledge of website accessibility issues and standards;
- Test (audit) websites and documents to identify accessibility and compliance issues; and
- Correct noncompliant web content (including documents, presentations and videos).

These resources and tools are available on the VDOE website, along with an overview of website accessibility and the VDOE Web Accessibility Plan, which schools and divisions may use as a model in developing their own plans to achieve WCAG 2.0 Level AA compliance.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Director of Communications Charles B. Pyle; telephone (804) 371-2420.