



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

**DATE:** September 22, 2017  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **National School Lunch Week: October 9-13, 2017**

Schools around the nation and throughout the Commonwealth will be celebrating National School Lunch Week, October 9-13, 2017. The year's theme, School Lunch: *Recipes for Success*, 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 of <https://www.choosemyplate.gov/>.

More information about the National School Lunch Program can be found on the U.S Department of Agriculture website at <https://www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp>. National School Lunch Week is sponsored by the non-profit School Nutrition Association (SNA). Visit <https://schoolnutrition.org/Meetings/Events/NSLW/2017/> for ideas and information about the *Show Your Spirit* celebration.

For questions, please contact the school nutrition program specialist assigned to your division, or Sandy Curwood, Director, School Nutrition Programs, at [sandra.curwood@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:sandra.curwood@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 225-2074.

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