



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

**DATE:** December 8, 2017  
**TO:** Division Superintendents  
**FROM:** Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction  
**SUBJECT:** **Educational Stability for Students in Foster Care, Updated Virginia Joint Guidance to Align With the *Every Student Succeeds Act* and the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008***

This memorandum announces revisions to previous guidance addressing implementation of the *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* (Fostering Connections) as presented in Superintendent's Memorandum [No. 297-12](#), dated November 2, 2012. These revisions were made to comply with the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015* educational mandate that parallels Fostering Connections and to clarify issues that have arisen through Virginia's seven years of implementing educational stability for students in foster care.

Attached is the updated joint guidance document developed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) that explains the process to ensure immediate enrollment and school stability for children in foster care.

The VDOE web page for foster care enrollment is being updated with this guidance and new training materials and resources. The VDOE and VDSS will continue to host regional trainings and informational webinars to facilitate the implementation of the procedures related to these acts. The dates and times of these trainings will be provided to your foster care liaison. To ensure that the correct school division staff receives this information, please ensure that the foster care liaison contact information is correct in the Single Sign-on for Web System (SSWS) portal.

Questions regarding this guidance may be directed to Dr. Patricia A. Popp, at [pxpopp@wm.edu](mailto:pxpopp@wm.edu) or (757) 221-7776.

SRS/pap

**Attachment:**

- A. [Fostering Connections and the Every Student Succeeds Act: Joint Guidance for School Stability of Children and Youth in Foster Care](#) (Word)