



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

March 4, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: 2016 Tornado Drill

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the next Statewide Tornado Drill will take place Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at 9:45 a.m. The *Code of Virginia* in § 22.1-137.1 requires all public schools to participate in at least one tornado drill each year. Participation in the March 22 statewide tornado drill will fulfill that requirement. Schools may choose an alternate date or time if this is not convenient.

For information on planning a drill and registering for the Statewide Tornado Drill, go to <http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov> and click on the tornado graphic. Registration for the drill is not required but does track statewide participation. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) is requesting that schools register for the 2016 drill individually rather than by school division.

Questions about the Statewide Tornado Drill can be directed to Karla Ramos, VDEM public outreach specialist, Karla.Ramos@vdem.virginia.gov; (804) 897-9731, or Jo Ann Burkholder, director, Office of Student Services, Virginia Department of Education at (804) 225-2818, or by e-mail at Joann.Burkholder@doe.virginia.gov.

SRS/JB/rt