



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

April 12, 2016

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Governor McAuliffe Proclaims Virginia High School Student Registration Week: April 24-30, 2016

Governor McAuliffe issued a [Proclamation](#) to officially recognize April 24-30, 2016 as Virginia High School Student Registration Week. The purpose of the Proclamation is to encourage high school students and teachers across the Commonwealth to conduct voter registration drives at their schools. All Virginia public high schools are invited to participate in this special statewide voter registration drive. The Virginia Department of Education has partnered with the Department of Elections and other nonprofit and nonpartisan organizations working to encourage eligible youth in the Commonwealth to register to vote in time, not only in the November Presidential Election, but also the June 14 primary elections.

School specific resources for students and teachers are available on the [Department of Elections Web site](#) to aid in planning and conducting voter registration efforts. Contact information for partnering organizations and local voter registration offices that may be able to provide support is also available via this dedicated Web page.

Students are encouraged to participate in the online voter registration drive by visiting www.vote.virginia.gov. Students may also register by completing a registration application and mailing it to either their local registration office or the address printed on the form. The deadline to register for the 2016 General Election is October 13, 2016.

The November election will be statewide and Virginia citizens will be electing local and federal officials. It is important that all eligible voters exercise their civic responsibility to participate in the election process. When young people register and vote, they are more likely to continue voting. By providing information and encouragement to our students, we can help shape the next generation of American voters. The Department of Education encourages all high schools to participate in this opportunity to promote civics education and civic responsibility.

SRS/lw

Links:

- [Governor McAuliffe's Announcement](#)
- [Governor McAuliffe's Proclamation](#)
- [Department of Elections High School Registration Resources](#)

