



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education

September 25, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

SUBJECT: Preventing Youth Underage Drinking Brochures

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), in collaboration with the Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, MADD Virginia, and Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, is pleased to provide [Power of Parents](#), a brochure focused on preventing youth underage drinking. This brochure is for all parents of seniors to commemorate the senior year and preparation for graduation. Research indicates that parents are the key to preventing youth underage drinking, and teens are significantly less likely to drink if they have a parent who delivers a clear and consistent message that underage drinking is unacceptable. To further ensure our students have a safe and healthy senior year, we are providing high schools across Virginia with critical brochures to support parent conversations with their seniors about underage drinking and DUI prevention.

Senior year is the long awaited culmination of efforts to prepare students for life, college, and careers. A good percentage of youth enter college having already experienced negative consequences of alcohol use in high school, so senior year is also a critical year for ramping up our prevention education efforts.

For additional information, please contact Vanessa Wigand, principal specialist for health, physical, and driver education, Office of Science and Health Education, by e-mail at vanessa.wigand@doe.virginia.gov or by telephone at (804) 225-3300.

SRS/VCW/rt