



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

November 6, 2015

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Family Involvement In Education Month**

On behalf of the Department of Education, I am pleased to announce that Governor Terrace R. McAuliffe and the Virginia Board of Education signed Certificates of Recognition proclaiming November 2015 as Family Involvement in Education Month. I hope that you will join with me to encourage your local school administrators to implement initiatives aimed at increasing family engagement in your schools.

The importance of family involvement in schools is well documented. Over 30 years of research shows that one of the most effective ways to increase student achievement is for parents to be actively involved in the education of their children. Family involvement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, two-way communication, and collaboration between families, schools and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure maximum achievement and success.

The full text of the Governor's Certificate of Recognition and the Virginia Board of Education's Resolution announcing Family Involvement Month are attached. For additional Family Involvement Resources please visit: [www.doe.virginia.gov/families](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/families).

The Virginia Department of Education will be featuring innovative family engagement initiatives currently underway in school divisions across the Commonwealth on its Web site throughout the month of November. I hope that you and other administrators in your division will join with us to promote the important role that families and community stakeholders play in student success and achievement and that you will take time this month to initiate a family engagement activity your community.

SRS/LW

Attachments:

- A. [Certificate of Recognition](#) (PDF)
- B. [Resolution of Recognition](#) (PDF)