



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

August 22, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS) Outreach**

The goal of outreach for the Family Access to Medical Insurance Security Plan (FAMIS), Virginia's health insurance program for children, is to improve health outcomes of children from low-income families across the Commonwealth by informing, encouraging, and facilitating enrollment of eligible children.

Since the 2002-2003 school year, the Virginia Department of Education has requested your assistance in providing information to parents about FAMIS. While the outreach efforts of school divisions and community organizations have been successful, there is more work to be done. There are approximately 583,000 children currently enrolled, but according to the Urban Institute, 110,000 children remain uninsured in Virginia who are likely eligible for FAMIS or FAMIS Plus.

The Department of Education is again requesting your participation in outreach to uninsured students during the 2014-2015 school year. The Department of Medical Assistance Services (DMAS) has provided the attached document to assist schools in raising awareness through outreach activities geared specifically for the school setting.

Thank you again for your assistance in this very important initiative to improve the health of Virginia's children. Should you have questions or require assistance, please contact Tia Campbell, school health specialist, at [Tia.Campbell@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Tia.Campbell@doe.virginia.gov) or (804) 786-8671.

SRS/TBC

Attachment:

- A. [Back to School & Beyond: FAMIS Outreach Ideas](#) (PDF)