



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA  
Department of Education

September 19, 2014

TO: Division Superintendents

FROM: Steven R. Staples, Superintendent of Public Instruction

**SUBJECT: Earthquake Drill Set for October 16, 2014**

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage school divisions to participate in the annual *Great SouthEast Shakeout* earthquake drill. On October 16, 2014, at 10:16 a.m., the schools and communities of several southeastern states will participate in this drill. In August 2011, Virginia experienced the historic 5.8 magnitude earthquake centered in Louisa County when it struck during the school day. Participation in the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut* is an opportune time for staff and students to become familiar with earthquake response protocols.

Schools can register for the drill and find additional information and resources at [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov) and [www.shakeout.org/southeast](http://www.shakeout.org/southeast). A *ShakeOut* drill manual for K-12 schools is available at [http://www.shakeout.org/downloads/ShakeOutDrillManualSchools\\_v2.pdf](http://www.shakeout.org/downloads/ShakeOutDrillManualSchools_v2.pdf).

If you have questions about the *Great SouthEast ShakeOut*, please contact Laura Southard, public outreach coordinator at the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, by phone (804) 897-6510 or e-mail [laura.southard@vdem.virginia.gov](mailto:laura.southard@vdem.virginia.gov).

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