



#192-22

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #192-22**

DATE: August 26, 2022
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **September is Attendance Awareness Month**

School attendance is essential to academic success. Research shows that missing as little as two days every month, or ten percent of the school year, can have a significant impact on students. Almost half of students who miss between two and four days in September continue to be chronically absent throughout the school year. In Virginia, missing ten percent of the school year is considered chronic absenteeism, which includes excused and unexcused absences. This data suggests that schools should monitor attendance from the beginning of the school year and intervene swiftly to get students back on track.

This September will mark the tenth annual Attendance Awareness Month campaign. The campaign is spearheaded by [Attendance Works](#), a national initiative that promotes better policy and practice around school attendance. The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) recognizes the importance of ensuring support and resources to promote student attendance and provides guidance to school divisions related to attendance interventions via training and technical assistance resources on the VDOE [Attendance and Truancy](#) webpage.

For more information

Questions regarding resources to promote attendance may be directed to Alexandra Javna, Student Services Specialist, by email at Alexandra.Javna@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 786-0720.

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