



**#106-21**

**Commonwealth of Virginia  
Virginia Department of Education  
Superintendent's Memo #106-21**

DATE: April 23, 2021  
TO: Division Superintendents  
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction  
SUBJECT: **Public Comments for the Proposed Social Emotional Learning Standards**

In response to House Bill ([HB 753](#)), enacted by the 2020 Virginia General Assembly, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) established a uniform definition of social emotional learning (SEL) and developed guidance standards for SEL for all public school students in grades kindergarten through twelfth in the Commonwealth.

The Virginia Department of Education's SEL efforts are driven by the commitment to ensure that every student in Virginia attends a school that maximizes their potential and prepares them for the future academically, socially, and emotionally. Virginia's vision for SEL is intended to center equity in this work, which is key to VDOE's vision and mission.

"The vision of social emotional learning in Virginia is to maximize the potential of all students and staff to become responsible, caring, and reflective members of our diverse society by advancing equity, uplifting student voice, and infusing SEL into every part of the school experience."

The Virginia SEL Standards are aligned with the objectives of the Profile of a Virginia Graduate: Critical thinking, Creative thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Citizenship (e.g., the "5 C's") and the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) five SEL competencies: Self Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Decision Making.

The development of the Standards is a result of collaborations with multiple stakeholders throughout the Commonwealth, including school-based personnel representing diverse Superintendent's Regions and disciplines, community leaders, representatives from state agencies, parent representatives, and specialists from VDOE.

The VDOE is soliciting public comments on the Social Emotional Learning Standards, which are attached to this memo. The proposed Standards will be available on [Virginia Regulatory Town Hall Public Forums](#), and comments can be made online from April 26, 2021 - May 25, 2021.

### For more information

Please contact Martha Montgomery, School Psychology Specialist, Office of Student Services, at [Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Martha.Montgomery@doe.virginia.gov), or by telephone at (804) 692-0396.

JFL/MFM/rge

- A. Attachment: [Draft of Virginia Social Emotional Learning Standards](#) (DOCX)