



#181-21

**Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo #181-21**

DATE: July 9, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Legal/Advocacy Groups and Resources for Special Education**

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of Dispute Resolution and Administrative Services (ODRAS) has recently updated the Legal/Advocacy Groups and Resources for Special Education resource document.

The [Legal/Advocacy Groups and Resources for Special Education document](#) was compiled to assist local school divisions in satisfying the responsibilities of notifying parent(s) of the availability of free or low-cost legal services when due process requests are initiated; refer to [8 VAC 20-81-210.N.5 of the Regulations Governing Special Education Programs for Children with Disabilities in Virginia](#). The ODRAS document includes a non-exhaustive list of non-profit legal services and advocacy organizations in Virginia that provide no-cost/low-cost legal or advocacy services, technical assistance, and/or referrals to the public.

For more information

Questions about the Legal/Advocacy Groups and Resources for Special Education document should be directed to Hallie Bereny, Compliance Specialist, by email at Hallie.Bereny@doe.virginia.gov, or by telephone at (804) 225-2013.

JFL/SMH/hb