



COVID-19 Weekly Update



Week of April 6-10, 2020

VSBA Is Here for You!



As we wrap up the fourth week of school closures in Virginia, I want to take a moment to assure you all that your association is here, and available to you. To ensure the continuity of business operations during the pandemic, VSBA has transitioned our operations online. Our staff is working remotely and available by email, phone, and Zoom during normal business hours. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time.

During this time we are having to get creative, think outside the box, and innovate. We are hard at work to make sure that we are providing you opportunities to learn, grow, and exchange ideas during this unprecedented time in public education. Though we have had to make some tough decisions to cancel or postpone some conferences, we look forward to bringing you new opportunities during this time. Be sure to read the last section in this newsletter below for updates on all scheduled VSBA events, and for announcements of new opportunities. This section will be updated each week, and the information is also available on the VSBA website.

Currently the VSBA has several opportunities for School Divisions to share best practices and initiatives taking place locally. Both the Food for Thought and Excellence in Workforce Readiness competitions are open for entries and will continue to be held as normal. Though we will not be gathering in July for the Conference on Education, we will be recognizing the winning divisions at a Virtual Awards Ceremony. Details for that Virtual Awards Ceremony are forthcoming.

We have been inspired by the creativity that we have seen at the division level and encourage you all to continue to innovate as we move forward planning how to best serve our communities. As we finish out this school year, and move toward the next, with many

factors unknown, we will need to continue to be the best advocates, leaders and supporters that we can be. Remember, *together we can!*

Thank you for all the hard work that you are doing each and every day for the students across the Commonwealth.

-G.P.

**Food for Thought
Competition**

**Excellence in Workforce
Readiness Awards**



Crewe Primary School staff preparing to pass out meals (Nottoway County Public Schools).

Q & A Session with Senator Tim Kaine & Senator Mark Warner

Did you miss the live webinar with the Senators? The recorded session is available below.

A screenshot of a live Q&A session welcome screen. The screen features the VSBA logo (Virginia School Boards Association) in the top left corner. The main text reads: "Welcome", "Thank You For Joining Us The VSBA Live Q&A Session With", and "Senator Tim Kaine & Senator Mark Warner". A large play button icon is centered over the text. On the right side, there is a vertical stack of four video thumbnails showing participants. The bottom right corner of the screen displays the website address "www.vsba.org".



WHRO Public Media Launches “VA TV Classroom” in Response to School Closures

WHRO Public Media will broadcast teacher-led classroom instruction aligned with the commonwealth’s academic standards into homes across the state beginning Monday, April 13.

WHRO Public Media along with its sister public media partners worked closely with the Virginia Department of Education to create “VA TV Classroom” to provide instruction to students in grades K-10 who are unable to access other distance learning options due to a lack of high-speed internet.

“VA TV Classroom” will air instructional content from 1-3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

“I would like to thank Blue Ridge PBS, VPM, WETA and WHRO Public Media for providing this resource for students while schools are closed as part of the commonwealth’s strategy to slow the spread of the coronavirus and protect public health,” Lane said. “It is nothing short of amazing that these public media stations were able to create ‘VA TV Classroom’ and schedule its launch within a month of the governor’s initial order to close schools.”

The “VA TV Classroom” on-air schedule is as follows:

- K-3 instruction airs from 1-2 p.m. with Standards of Learning-aligned content provided by WHRO Public Media. “Learn to Grow with WHRO” segments will be 15 minutes in length and led by teachers.
- Grades 7-10 instruction airs from 2-3 p.m. with SOL-aligned content provided by WHRO Public Media focusing on Earth Science and Algebra 1.
- During the week of April 27, “VA TV Classroom” will add a special hour from 3-4 p.m. called AP Prep Week, with content provided by Virtual Virginia in collaboration with WHRO focusing on a different AP subject each day. The hour will include two 30-minute segments.

“WHRO is proud to be a part of ‘VA TV Classroom.’ WHRO actually stands for Home Room One,” WHRO President and CEO Bert Schmidt said. “WHRO was created nearly 60 years ago as a way to bring the classroom into homes via the TV. Much of our educational instruction is now created digitally, but knowing so many students now don’t have access to our online resources, we were thrilled to bring this important instruction back to our air.”

“VA TV Classroom” can be seen throughout the commonwealth on the following channels:

- WHRO – WHRO World: via antenna 15.2, Cox 107 & Verizon FiOS 460
- VPM – VPM Plus
 - Richmond area: via antenna 57.1, Verizon FiOS 24 & 524 (HD), Comcast 24 & 797 (HD), DIRECTV 57, DISH 57 & 9392 (HD)
 - Charlottesville area: via antenna 41.2, Comcast 265 (HD) & 1146 (HD)
 - Shenandoah Valley: via antenna 51.2, Comcast 9, 798 (HD) & 1042 (HD)
- WETA – WETA PBS Kids: via antenna 26.3, Comcast 266, Cox 801, Verizon FiOS 472, RCN 38
- Blue Ridge PBS – SWVAPTV: via antenna 15.2, streaming services Blue Ridge Streaming and Project Southwest on YouTube, Citizens Cable 82, Cox 107, Comcast/Xfinity 264, Lumos 17 (Shentel, Bedford, Covington, Glade Hill, Radford, Rocky Mount, Rustburg, Wytheville: 157)

“I believe that ‘VA TV Classroom’ will make a tremendous difference this spring as schools endeavor to provide continuity of learning for students, especially in communities where online learning is a challenge,” Lane said. “This programming builds on the long-standing partnership between VDOE and public television to support teaching and learning across the state.”

U.S. Department of Education Releases Fact Sheet

The U.S. Department of Education posted a fact sheet today that provides information about compensation, travel and conference expenses under grant programs from the Department. For example, the document addresses the following question:

“May a grantee or subgrantee continue to pay the compensation of an employee paid with grant funds from the Department during the period the employee is unable to work because his or her organization is closed due to novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)?”

The fact sheet is also posted here: <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/coronavirus/factsheet-fiscal-questions.pdf>.

Regional Educational Laboratories Webinar: Learning Remotely in the Age of COVID-19

The spread of COVID-19 has caused schools and districts across the country to shutter their doors. States, districts, and schools must suddenly and unexpectedly grapple with the new reality of providing quality education to every student remotely.

Join REL Mid-Atlantic for a free webinar on remote learning with researchers and educators who will cover these important topics:

- Felicia Hurwitz and Steve Malick, researchers with REL Mid-Atlantic, will provide an overview of the context of school closures in the mid-Atlantic region and beyond and discuss evidence-based practices to support remote learning.

- Heather Bennett, director of school equity services at the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, will discuss strategies to promote educational equity during remote learning.

This webinar is intended for administrators from state education agencies, districts, and schools; teachers; school board members; and others interested in effective distance learning. Submit your questions for the presenters in advance by emailing RELMidatlantic@mathematica-mpr.com. You will also be able to ask questions during the webinar.

Learning Remotely in the Age of COVID-19: Lessons from Evidence and Concerns for Equity

April 14, 2020

3:30–5:00 p.m. ET

[Register here](#)

Center for Safe Schools COVID-19 Webinar: Navigating Virtual Education - with Calm, Connectedness and Compassion

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our way of life, we recognize that schools and families are engaged in daily challenges to support ourselves and our students. As the number of cases of COVID-19 increase, so does the level of fear, stress and anxiety being experienced in our communities. As we shift to remote learning environments, it is important to not overlook the mental health impacts that this may also be having on our staffs, families and students.

With this in mind, the National School Boards Association's [Center for Safe Schools](#), in collaboration with the [Attachment & Trauma Network](#), has hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on Navigating Virtual Education -- with Calm, Connectedness and Compassion. This discussion focuses on the impact of school closures and the new "normal" this is creating for families and educators alike. This discussion addresses the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schools and families and how we can help children and families, especially those with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), navigate this new environment.

Presented by:

Adam Lustig - Director, NSBA Center for Safe Schools

Julie Beem - Executive Director, Attachment & Trauma Network

Dr. Melissa Sadin - Director, Creating Trauma-Sensitive Schools, Attachment & Trauma Network

Ginger Healy, MSW, LCSW - Director, Parenting Program, Attachment & Trauma Network

This discussion can be accessed here:

[Navigating Virtual Education -- with Calm, Connectedness and Compassion](#)

Resources, News & Updates

We have compiled a multitude of resources for school board members, and school divisions to consult. **Below you will find the newest additions.** For the entire collection please visit the VSBA COVID-19 resource page available at the link below.

In addition we have compiled a list of at-home learning resources that are available online for students who are home due to COVID-19. This list will be updated as additional resources become available. This is not an exclusive list, nor does this constitute an endorsement by VSBA for any of the included programs.

Visit the VSBA COVID-19
Resource Page

Visit the At Home Learning
Resources Page

Resources Added This Week

- [Fact Sheet: Select Questions Related to Use of Department of Education Grant Funds During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [9 Out Of 10 Children Are Out Of School Worldwide. What Now?](#)
- [Virginia High School League \(VHSL\)- COVID-19 Resources and Information](#)
- [Virginia Department of Emergency Management- Public Schools and/or School Boards Guidance](#)
- [American Institutes of Research- COVID-19 Response and Resources](#)
- [Recommendations for Grading During COVID-19 \(Apr 2020\)](#)
- [Calls to the Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline System drop by more than 50% during COVID-19](#)
- [With classrooms empty, fewer people are watching for signs of child abuse](#)
- [Zoom- Helpful Information to Secure Your Meetings](#)

VSBA Events, Education & Updates

Here are the latest updates to the VSBA Schedule, and planned development.

- All Remaining Spring Region Network Forums have been **Cancelled**- view the Board of Directors Resolution [here](#).
- **NEW!** April 14, 2020, Free Webinar: A Conversation with Governor Northam on the Impact of COVID-19 on Public Schools in Virginia- [register here!](#)
- April 17, 2020, Hot Topic Conference, **Cancelled**
- May 7, 2020, VSBA Budget Training, **Now Virtual**- [register here!](#)
- June 5, 2020, VSBA School Law Conference, **Now Virtual**- [register here!](#)
- July 21, 2020, VSBA Conference on Education, **Cancelled**

Please keep an eye on our upcoming events. As we continue to consult the VDH, CDC, and WHO for guidelines on gatherings we will continue to release updates. See below for opportunities for development you can take advantage of now.

Register for an Upcoming Live
Webinar

Listen to the VSBA: School
Board News

Read the Latest VSBA
Newsletter

View the List of Available
Webinars on Demand

Read the Latest Federal
Advocacy Report

