



COVID-19 Weekly Update



The VSBA COVID-19 Resources website and weekly newsletter are sponsored by BPA

Contact: Dr. Jim Blevins, 434-258-7220, jblevins@bpatpa.com

Week of May 4 - 8, 2020



As school closures approach the two month mark, I encourage each of us to step back and reflect on the accomplishments within Virginia's public school system. Many deserve a thank you, but I want to single out one group that has put forward a herculean effort – the staff of our schools.

I include everyone that serves our students day after day - superintendents, central office staff, principals, teachers, paraprofessionals, food service personnel, custodial staff, maintenance personnel, bus drivers, secretaries, and all others who make certain schools are ready and able to educate our children. They do their jobs day in, day out, throughout the year. However, they all deserve special kudos for what they have done during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We were all left reeling over the decision to close schools – an unprecedented event in our lifetimes. Most were asking, “So what does this mean?” With just a few days pause, our school staff leapt into action and began to serve students in so many ways. We have seen incredible people doing amazing work to ensure students continue to receive an education.

Students were fed, teachers connected with their students, lessons were delivered in a myriad of ways, supplies necessary for home education were assembled and distributed. There was little hand wringing and complaining. These folks did what Virginians always do – they solved problems as they arose and developed “workarounds” to accomplish the job. That being said, let us remember the many things your school staff overcame to ensure that school continued, no matter how lessons were delivered or what obstacles had to be hurdled. Virginia's students are the winners because of these dedicated people!

I encourage you to reach out to those folks operating your schools from wherever they are working and thank them for what they do every day – but especially during this difficult time.

-G.P.

May 5, 2020: VSBA Webinar: A Conversation with Dr. Janice Underwood, Virginia's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Leading By Reassuring - Webinar Training Series - Next...

If you thought this year was crazy, back-to-school stands to present even more challenges. Join former school administrator and national K-12 professional development expert Dr. Christine Wells for the next installment of K12 Insight 's Leading by...

[Read more](#)
pages.k12insight.com



Resources for
Educators and Families
during
School Closures and
Social Distancing

Resources for Educators and Families During School...

Each week, on Fridays, we send resources to our partner schools for school administrators to share with their communities. We are focusing our support around social emotional learning for schools and families, and will highlight resources around...

[Read more](#)
www.sounddiscipline.org

FREE Webinar Opportunity- Coping with COVID-19: Mental Health Tips for Children and Families

Live Webinar hosted by Keenan & Associates
Coping with COVID-19: Mental Health Strategies for Children and Families
Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. PST

Presenter: Dr. Scott Poland, Ed.D.

Professor at NSU's College of Psychology and Chair of the National Emergency Assistance Team for the National Association of School Psychologist. He is a nationally recognized expert on youth violence, suicide intervention, and self-injury.

Detail: It is essential that parents utilize self-care to manage their stress, while they also model coping and hope for their children at this difficult time. Tips will be provided to help parents balance three roles: parenting, home schooling and working remotely. For examples, children who are being home schooled need structure and a balance of activities to keep their brains and bodies occupied. This webinar will also discuss how to develop and maintain an overall schedule for children and the importance of getting their input through conducting family meetings.

Topics will include:

- Signs of stress in adults
- Signs of stress in children (by age group)
- Managing stress for adults

- Managing stress for children (by age group)
- Staying C.A.L.M. (calmness and control, availability, limited news, modeling)
- Family coping strategies
- Talking with children
- Building resiliency
- Resources for more information

[Registration](#)- limited space available.

2020- 2021 VSBA Conference Dates

We've received lots of inquiries about VSBA's schedule of upcoming conferences and events.

Here's the latest information.

[2020-2021 VSBA Events Schedule](#)



Conference Name	Date	Location
School Law Conference	June 5, 2020	Virtual
Orientation for New School Board Members and Superintendents	July 20, 2020	Virtual
Conference on Education	CANCELLED	CANCELLED
Title IX Workshop	September 17, 2020	VSBA Offices
Legislative Advocacy Conference	September 24, 2020	Virtual
Superintendent Evaluation Session	October 7, 2020	VSBA Offices
Annual Convention	November 18-20, 2020	Williamsburg Lodge

Conference Name	Date	Location
Capital Conference	January 25, 2021	Richmond
Winter Orientations	January 26, 2021	Richmond
Southwest Hot Topic Conference	March 17, 2021	Wytheville
Hot Topic Conference	April 13, 2021	Charlottesville
School Law Conference	June 4, 2021	Richmond
Summer Orientations	July 19, 2021	Richmond
Conference on Education	July 20, 2021	Richmond
Legislative Advocacy Conference	September 23, 2020	Charlottesville
Annual Convention	November 17-19, 2021	Williamsburg Lodge

Registration for Upcoming Events

School Law Conference

Friday, June 5, 2020

Virtual Event

**REGISTER
HERE**



Your school division needs you, your superintendent, and your attorney to participate in the 2020 VSBA School Law Conference webinar! Why? Because many of the decisions you make have legal implications that will impact your school division for years to come. Hear school law updates from the state and local perspective as well as learn about the legal authority and your role as a school board. Attend this online session to be informed and be prepared!

Orientation for New School Board Members and Superintendents

Monday, July 20, 2020

Virtual Event

**REGISTER
HERE**



Becoming a new school board member or superintendent is an honor and a privilege. Enjoy a successful and less stressful transition by attending the VSBA Orientation for New Board Members & Superintendents. Many important topics will be covered, including the roles and responsibilities of board/ superintendents, how to

work with your local appropriating body, school law, parliamentary procedure and school board budget basics. Don't miss this important virtual orientation which is a "must" for all new board members and superintendents!



www.bpatpa.com/vsba



LEARN ABOUT TELEMEDICINE OPTIONS FROM BPA

BPA partners with 4 of the nation's best telemedicine providers so you can receive expert medical care from the comfort of your home via phone call, video or email.

This program is available through your VSBA Login Portal, and allows you to:

- Access a doctor 24/7
- Search for a nearby doctor, dentist or other provider
- Compare cash vs. insurance pricing for service
- Shop and compare a variety of prescriptions to find the best prices
- Receive benefit and savings reminders
- View up-to-date coverage information

Especially as communities and health systems continue to deal with challenges posed by COVID-19 environment, telemedicine is a safe and convenient option for addressing minor illnesses and symptoms that can be diagnosed and treated without a clinic visit, such as:

Allergies, Bronchitis, Earache, Sore Throat, Sinusitis, Pink Eye, Strep Throat, Respiratory Infection, Urinary Infection, and others

Reaching a quality, board-certified doctor is as easy as calling 888.628.2744.

Log into your member portal today at www.bpatpa.com to learn more about telemedicine options.

REMINDER:

Virtual visits can also be used to help screen patients for coronavirus.

BPA members can connect with a physician to assess potential COVID-19 symptoms and receive immediate medical treatment for lower costs while eliminating high-risk exposure at doctors' offices. If you are experiencing respiratory virus symptoms, contact a doctor immediately.

Thank you for following our updates.

Stay tuned for more information, and for any questions please contact
Jim Blevins at 434.258.7220, Sam Irby at 434.774.4001 or
Paul LaPradd at 540.520.7686.

www.bpatpa.com

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

- [How to Support Teachers' Emotional Needs Right Now](#)

VSBA Events, Education & Updates

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

- May 11, 2020, Reduce Discipline with Schoolwide Mindfulness, **Free Webinar**, [register here!](#)
- May 14, 2020, Free Speech for Me but not for Thee: Issues Presented When School Board Members Communicate on Social Media , **Paid Webinar**, [register here!](#)
- May 18, 2020, VSBA Showcases for Success 2020, **Free Webinar**, [register here!](#)
- June 5, 2020, VSBA School Law Conference, **Now Virtual-** [register here!](#)
- July 20, 2020, VSBA Orientation for New School Board Members and Superintendents, **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**

