



#035-21

Commonwealth of Virginia
Virginia Department of Education
Superintendent's Memo

DATE: February 5, 2021
TO: Division Superintendents
FROM: James F. Lane, Ed.D., Superintendent of Public Instruction
SUBJECT: **Release of the Revised Governor's Scorecard on Nutrition and Physical Activity**

The purpose of this memo is to announce the release of the revised Governor's Scorecard on Nutrition and Physical Activity (Governor's Scorecard). The Governor's Scorecard recognizes initiatives that create a culture of health and wellness using enhanced food quality, increased school meal programs participation, and promotion of physical activity and increased instruction in health, wellness, and physical education. The Scorecard identifies best practices, establishes benchmarks, and provides recognition to schools that exceed minimum requirements related to nutrition and physical activity. The Scorecard replaces the U.S. Department of Agriculture's HealthierUS School Challenge and contributes to the category of Innovative Practice in the [Exemplar Performance School Recognition program](#).

Background

Governor Warner's Healthy Virginians Initiative, in 2005, was developed to demonstrate the positive role of government in promoting healthy lifestyles in workplaces, schools, and at home.

The Governor's Scorecard component of the Initiative was the Nutrition and Physical Activity Awards Program, which was designed to encourage policies and practices promoting good nutrition and physical activity in Virginia schools. To be eligible to

participate in the program, schools formed a wellness team consisting of the school principal or designee, the school nutrition manager, the school health and physical education teacher, the division health and physical education coordinator, and the division school nutrition director.

Each wellness team was able to report and evaluate their school's wellness environment via an interactive online scorecard of best practices for school nutrition and physical activity. Schools earned points for each best practice reported and schools with enough points earned bronze, silver, or gold designations.

The Revised Scorecard

The Governor's Scorecard has been updated to align with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model. Completing the revised scorecard requires a team approach including the school principal, a wellness policy designee, the school nutrition manager, the school division nutrition director, and at least one parent and student.

The revised scorecard includes a total of 40 scored questions and takes approximately 90 minutes to complete. Each question is worth up to four points. Each scored question is followed by prompts to add supporting documentation of the best practices reported. Schools that earn between 112 and 127 points will receive a bronze designation. Schools that earn between 128 and 143 points will receive a silver designation. And schools that earn between 144 and 160 points will receive a gold designation.

Completing the Revised Scorecard

To learn more about the scorecard, preview scorecard questions, view an instructional video, and/or complete the scorecard, please visit the [Governor's Scorecard on Nutrition and Physical Activity webpage](#). Scorecard submissions will be reviewed and scored by a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) panel. Schools that earn bronze, silver, or gold designations will receive a certificate and be showcased on the Governor's Scorecard webpage. Schools may complete the scorecard annually.

For more information

Should you have any questions about the scorecard or require technical assistance, please contact Laura Burns, VDOE Office of School Nutrition Programs Wellness Policy Specialist, via email at Laura.Burns@doe.virginia.gov.

SCC/LB/cc