



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 2120

RICHMOND 23218-2120

January 18, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) is pleased to announce that Virginia was selected as one of three states and two tribal nations to carry out demonstration projects to end childhood hunger. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds these projects and their evaluation. Our project is called the ***Virginia 365 Project to End Childhood Hunger***.

The school your child attends has been selected to participate in this evaluation study and may be selected to receive the project benefits, which include: (1) three meals a day during the school day and food backpacks for weekends and school breaks to all children in participating intervention schools, (2) \$60 monthly benefits during summer for each child eligible for free/reduced-price school meals, and (3) nutrition education for parents and guardians. Through the ***Virginia 365 Project***, the Commonwealth hopes to demonstrate that childhood hunger can be eliminated when children have access to healthy meals where they live, learn and play.

Governor Terry McAuliffe and First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe have identified child nutrition as a high priority and fully support this important project and its successful implementation. They recognize the vital role good, nutritious meals and physical activity play in ensuring the children of Virginia develop healthy lifestyles and succeed academically to become productive citizens.

The enclosed letter from Sarah Forrestal, the survey director from Mathematica Policy Research, explains your level of involvement and requests your consent to participate in the evaluation study. Your participation is voluntary. Please read the attached letter carefully.

We encourage your household to participate in this important effort and become a part of Virginia's rich history as Virginia leads the way to ending childhood hunger. If you have any questions about the ***Virginia 365 Project to End Childhood Hunger***, feel free to contact the Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs at (804) 225-2074/2082.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Catherine Digilio Grimes".

Catherine Digilio Grimes, MS, RDN, LDN, SNS
Director, Office of School Nutrition Programs

CDG/TSD/idl
Attachment

c: T. Sherri Dorsey, Project Manager, VDOE