

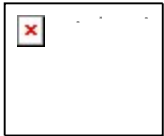
REDACTED

From: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Callie Oettinger
Subject: Re: attendance

Ms. Oettinger,

Thank you for your email to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). As I have stated to you in numerous previous emails, attendance data was collected per VDOE and local school division policy in the school year 2019-2020. After schools were closed via Executive Order in March, 2020 attendance was not collected through the data collection mechanisms at the VDOE. To summarize, most schools closed on March 15th and no more attendance was taken past that date. Should you have additional questions regarding a local school division please contact that division directly. Again, this is representative of all information available from the VDOE.

-S. Hollins



SESS

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On Thu, Mar 25, 2021 at 8:51 AM **REDACTED** wrote:

Samantha,

If you could provide me an answer, I'd appreciate it.

Thanks,

Callie

From [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:22 PM
To: 'Hollins, Samantha' <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Cc: 'Austin, Ayorkor' <Ayorkor.Austin@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: attendance
Importance: High

Samantha,

We're going in circles here.

The link your provided today and on the 10th don't even have the word "attendance" listed on them.

Please provide me a yes or no answer.

After the two-week closure, GOV Northam ordered cessation of in-person instruction. He did not order the closure of school. Were LEAs required to report attendance to VDOE during this period? Yes or no?

Thanks,

Callie

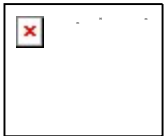
From: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:09 PM
To: Callie Oettinger [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: attendance

Ms. Oettinger,

Thank you for your email to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Attendance data was collected per VDOE and local school division policy in the school year 2019-2020. **After schools were closed via**

Executive Order in March, 2020 attendance was covered under guidance shared with you from the VDOE regarding continuity of learning on the [website](#) in the email dated March 10, 2021. This is representative of all information available from the VDOE.

-S. Hollins



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On Wed, Mar 24, 2021 at 2:06 PM **REDACTED** wrote:

Samantha,

Please respond to the below.

You said I was wrong about the governor calling for the cessation of in-person instruction, but I am right. My information came from the governor's order, while yours came from a press release.

Please answer my questions.

Callie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 16, 2021 6:31 PM
To: 'Callie Oettinger' [REDACTED] 'Hollins, Samantha' <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Cc: 'Austin, Ayorkor' <Ayorkor.Austin@ed.gov>
Subject: RE: attendance

Samantha,

I again ask you to respond.

A simple yes or no would be great.

Your failure to respond makes me believe you are trying to hide and/or withhold this information.

Please provide it.

Thanks,

Callie

From: Callie Oettinger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 5:19 PM
To: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Cc: Austin, Ayorkor <Ayorkor.Austin@ed.gov>
Subject: Re: attendance

Samantha,

If you could respond I would appreciate it.

I'm concerned that you are forwarding an incorrect narrative based on a press release instead of the executive order.

I ask again that you answer my question:

Were LEA's required to report attendance for the portion of the 2019-2020 school year that took place after the governor ordered the cessation of in-person instruction?

Callie

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 12, 2021, at 1:53 PM, **REDACTED** wrote:

Samantha,

Actually, I'm correct – and you're wrong.

Read the actual executive order – rather than citing a press release.

The executive order calls for "Cessation of all in-person instruction at K-12 schools, public and private, for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year."

See:

[https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\).pdf](https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorviriniagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf)

I again ask you to answer my question.

Callie

From: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 12:05 PM
To: Callie Oettinger [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: FW: attendance

Ms. Oettinger,

Please see below. Your assertion is incorrect.

-S. Hollins



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On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 10:58 AM [REDACTED] wrote:

Samantha,

I'm still not clear.

Clear: Attendance reporting was required prior to the two-week closure ordered by Governor Northam in March 2020.

Unclear: After the two-week closure, GOV Northam ordered cessation of in-person instruction. He did not close schools. Were LEAs required to report attendance to VDOE during this period? Yes or no?

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2020/march/headline-855292-en.html#:~:text=Executive%20Order%20Fifty%2DThree%20orders,home%2C%20if%20and%20when%20possible.>

Thanks,

Callie

From: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 12, 2021 10:50 AM

To: Callie Oettinger **REDACTED**

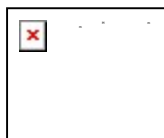
Subject: Re: FW: attendance

Ms. Oettinger,

Thank you for your email to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Attendance data was collected per VDOE and local school division policy in the school year 2019-2020. After schools were closed via Executive Order in March, 2020 attendance was covered under guidance shared with you from the VDOE regarding continuity of learning on the [website](#) in the

email dated March 10, 2021. This is representative of all information available from the VDOE.

-S. Hollins



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On Fri, Mar 12, 2021 at 10:30 AM <**REDACTED**> wrote:

Sam,

Could you please provide me a straight answer?

Did FCPS have to report attendance to VDOE during the 2019-20 school year – to include, but not limited to, the virtual portion after Gov. Northam ordered the cessation of in-person instruction?

You stated there have been no additional memorandums related to attendance.

You didn't state the same about any other instruction that might have been issued by VDOE or US DOE.

Please provide an answer.

Thanks,

Callie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 4:53 PM
To: 'Hollins, Samantha' <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Subject: RE: attendance
Importance: High

Samantha,

Any chance I can get an answer on this today?

Put simply: Were/are the LEAs required to report attendance to VDOE during the period after March 2020, and before summer 2020, when schools were in session virtually?

Thanks,

Callie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:59 PM
To: 'Hollins, Samantha' <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Subject: RE: attendance

Sam,

I can't find anything on VDOE's site stating that attendance reporting was waived for the 2019-20 school year, or for the period of the 2019-20 school year during which school building closed and school was provided virtually.

Did VDOE require LEA's to report attendance to VDOE?

Did VDOE waive the requirement for LEA's to report attendance?

I don't want to assume that my failure to find a specific document or citation means that VDOE required or waived attendance reporting.

Which is it?

Thanks,

Callie

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:53 PM
To: 'Hollins, Samantha' <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Subject: RE: attendance

Samantha,

As you know, VDOE's website is problematic, which is why I contacted you.

- 1) For the 2019-20 schoolyear, did James Lane or anyone else issue anything related to attendance?
- 2) For the end of the 2019-20 school year, during the period school buildings were closed and school switched to online platforms, were schools required to report attendance to VDOE?

Thanks,

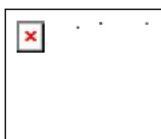
Callie

From: Hollins, Samantha <samantha.hollins@doe.virginia.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Callie Oettinger **REDACTED**
Subject: Re: attendance

Ms. Oettinger,

Thank you for your email to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). The VDOE issued Superintendent's Memo 188-20 on July 24, 2020 to provide guidance to local school divisions in collecting attendance data during the 2020-2021 school year. There have been no additional memorandum regarding attendance guidance specific to the topic you indicated during the 2019-2020 school year. You can, however, find guidance from the VDOE regarding continuity of learning on the [website](#) as well. In the future you can visit the VDOE [website](#) and search memoranda for topics of interest. You may also find additional resources on attendance on the VDOE [website](#).

-S. Hollins



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On Tue, Mar 9, 2021 at 6:10 PM **REDACTED** wrote:

Samantha,

I'm familiar with Superintendent's Memo #188-20, which addresses attendance for the 2020-21 school year.

Did James release anything for the 2019-20 school year, specifically related to taking attendance after school buildings were closed and classes moved to a virtual format?

Or, was attendance altogether waived?

Please advise.

Thanks,

Callie