



# CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

*By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution of Virginia in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:*

## **VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION EQUITY IN EDUCATION MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Governor Ralph Northam declared November 30 - December 6, 2020, "EDEquity VA Week" and the Virginia Department of Education announced the inaugural equity policy, *Virginia's Roadmap to Equity* and the recipients of the *Mary Peake Award for Excellence in Education Equity*, which recognizes educators, policy makers, school leaders, and stakeholder organizations whose service and leadership is impacting equity outcomes for Virginia students; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed inequities in schools and the increasingly significant challenge and responsibility we have in addressing them; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of school-aged students in the United States of America are children of color and in Virginia, fifty percent of public-school students qualify for subsidized meals; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that factors including, but not limited to, disability, race, ethnicity, language preference, and socioeconomic status have a demonstrated history of impacting the educational opportunities provided to a student; and

**WHEREAS**, the promise of public education is for every child to be successful in school and life; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for Virginia families, students, teachers, and school administrators to be aware of the diverse needs of learners, and to encourage discussion of the challenges as a school community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia School Boards Association has established a *Task Force on Students and Schools in Challenging Environments* to make recommendations and to stay at the forefront of discussions and actions to make student opportunities more equitable in Virginia schools; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that inequities in resources, including educational settings and buildings, supplies, and technology impedes student learning and it is our responsibility to directly address these inequities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ralph S. Northam, do hereby recognize March 2021, as **VIRGINIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION EQUITY IN EDUCATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens and residents.



  
Governor

  
Secretary of the Commonwealth