# November 2020 Recognized as Family Engagement in Education Month

* Governor Ralph S. Northam, Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James F. Lane, and the Virginia Board of Education recognize November 2020 as Family Engagement in Education Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
* The Virginia Board of Education believes that families and schools working together can create meaningful relationships that lead to significant gains in student achievement and success.
* Over 30 years of research clearly indicates all students achieve at higher levels when schools and families support each other.
* Research has shown that when schools and families are engaged in meaningful two-way communication and collaboration students have:

* More positive attitudes toward school
* Higher grades and test scores, which equals higher achievement
* Better attendance
* More homework completed
* Higher graduation rates
* Greater enrollment in post-secondary education
* Family Engagement in Education Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of families and schools and the work being done throughout the Commonwealth to ensure that we work together to build better futures for all children. It is also an opportunity to recognize that, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the operation of our public and private schools, parents have had to take on a more direct role in the education of their children.
* The Virginia Board of Education and the Virginia Department of Education strongly encourage local school officials to develop plans and policies to enhance family engagement in their children’s schools, lives, and in the education community.
* The Virginia Board of Education supports the work of the Virginia Department of Education and its commitment to providing funding and resources to support family engagement.