

FASD AWARENESS MONTH 2026 • VIRGINIA

Every Board, Every Voice

A Virginia school-board advocacy campaign

1 in 20

Virginia school-age children may have FASD

Not yet named in the state's Special Education eligibility criteria

WHAT IS THIS?

Every September, caregivers and self-advocates across Virginia's 132 school divisions deliver short public comments at their own local school board meetings about FASD's educational impact. Individually brief, together they become one visible, coordinated statement — with a concrete ask.

IMPACT WEEK

September 27–29, 2026

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

1

FIND YOUR MEETING

Search “[your division] school board meeting schedule” online.

2

PREPARE & SPEAK

A 2–3 minute comment: educational impact, prevalence, a short story, one clear ask.

3

SHARE IT

Post the same day with #EveryChildEveryBoard — a photo or sign makes it stick.

#EveryChildEveryBoard • #FASDVA2026

A campaign supported by FASD Virginia
fasdvirginia.org

EVERY BOARD, EVERY VOICE · SEPTEMBER 2026

How You Can Help

Three ways to move this forward this September

1

SPEAK

Sign up for public comment at your own school board meeting — just 2–3 minutes.

2

SHARE

Post about it — a photo, a sign, or just a sentence — using #EveryChildEveryBoard.

3

SEND

Forward this to one more Virginia caregiver, educator, or advocate who might join in.

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Virginia FASD Awareness Month 2026 · Quick Reference Card · [#EveryChildEveryBoard](#) [#FASDVA2026](#)

YOUR 2-MINUTE SCRIPT

Fill in the blanks. Read aloud with a timer before you go — aim for 1:45 so pauses/nerves don't push you over.

0:00–0:15 — Open

"Good evening, my name is ____ and I live in _____. I'm speaking today about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, or FASD."

0:15–0:45 — Educational impact

"FASD affects the brain, not just behavior. Kids with FASD often have strong verbal skills but struggle with memory, abstract thinking, and executive function — which means they can look fine on paper and still be misread as 'not trying' or 'defiant' by teachers who haven't been trained to recognize it."

0:45–1:05 — Prevalence

"FASD is estimated to affect roughly 1 in 20 school-age children — more common than autism. There are students with FASD in this division right now, most undiagnosed — and Virginia doesn't currently recognize FASD by name for Special Education eligibility."

1:05–1:35 — Your story (ethical, brief)

"____ [1–2 sentences on a system gap you experienced — e.g., how long it took to get the right support, or what worked once a teacher understood FASD]."

1:35–2:00 — Call to action & close

"Tonight I'm asking the board to ____ [pick ONE: explicitly include FASD as a condition considered in IEP/504 evaluations (e.g., under Other Health Impairment) / fund FASD-specific staff training / place FASD on a future agenda / issue a September proclamation / add FASD Virginia's resources to the family resource page]. Thank you for your time and for serving this division."

BEFORE YOU GO

- Find your meeting date + sign-up on your school division's website (search "[division] school board meeting schedule", or "[division] policy BDDH" for the public-participation rules)
- Register to speak by the deadline — varies by division; some open sign-up days ahead, some allow in-person sign-up the evening of
- Write your script, time it out loud
- Do an ethics check-in with another participant (see below)
- Print 2 copies — one to read, one for the board clerk

ETHICS QUICK-CHECK

- Get your child's input/consent if they're old enough to have one
- Tell the system gap, not a catalog of your child's struggles
- Skip birth-parent details — not necessary for the ask
- Read your story aloud to someone else first: would you be okay with your kid reading this in 10 years?

AT THE MEETING

- Arrive early — sign-in can close once the meeting starts
- State your name (and address, if asked) clearly before speaking
- Speak slower than feels natural — nerves speed everyone up
- No response is normal — comments go on the public record, not into a live debate

AFTER: POST & FOLLOW UP

"Today I spoke at [Division] School Board about FASD. 📊 ~1 in 20 kids. 🎓 [impact point]. 🗣️ My ask: [your CTA]. Join [#EveryChildEveryBoard](#) → [link] [#FASDVA2026](#)"

- Email the board within a week restating your ask in writing
- Log your division + outcome in the shared campaign tracker

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