

APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 2, 2017.** Please include this application form with electronic entry.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: Schoolology

Program Category: Information Technology

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Holly Zinn

Title: Management Specialist

Department: County Manager's Office

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Name: John Vithoukias

Title: County Manager

Signature: 

1. Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) is committed to the right to achieve and the support to succeed for all students. This commitment includes providing opportunities for our students to develop life skills that will ensure individual success in a connected world. Schoology, Henrico’s platform for learning, uniquely empowers our students to engage in anytime/anywhere learning that can be supported by the community.

Henrico’s efforts with Schoology focus on the design of quality content and learning activities and on the delivery of instruction that empowers learners. Our efforts also emphasize a balanced assessment of learning, along with engaging families and the community in the learning process. Schoology is available to 50,762 students, more than 5,000 staff members, and approximately 100,000 families and parents divisionwide. This platform breaks down barriers by allowing for learning to occur outside a traditional classroom setting. Schoology enables students and the learning community to receive important school updates and participate in classroom and group discussions. It also provides the ability to download and upload assignments and provides access to other digital resources on demand. The result has been the adoption of a learning platform that specifically meets our current and future instructional technology needs.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

For the past nine years, HCPS used Angel’s learning management system, School Space, to administer, document, and track courses and training programs throughout our school division. However, the product reached the end of its life in October 2016, and was no longer a viable option. In assessing School Space, it was evident that teachers were not satisfied with the original user experience. Many voiced concerns that School Space had become antiquated and was not

capable of meeting the needs of the modern learner. As a result, teachers and students were finding alternatives that began to create a disjointed learning experience. From class to class, teachers and students were using different learning management systems and digital tools. This made it difficult for all student grade levels to access content. It also made it a challenge for teachers and parents.

Many teachers and students who had been using the previous platform were looking for a new system that could meet their current needs and offer additional benefits with a more modern, easy-to-use interface. A wide variety of stakeholders gave feedback about features they'd like to see in a new learning management system. Division and school instructional leadership, teachers, students, and the community were the key stakeholders who informed the proposal process. Technology changes rapidly, and one of the most popular feature requests was that the division choose a platform that is continually updated and evolves to meet the needs of HCPS.

To successfully accomplish this, the HCPS Department of Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Operational Technology worked to find a replacement. We needed the ability to allow instructional leaders to manage, track, and deliver content, courses, and professional development in our schools – content that inspires, empowers, and educates every student to be prepared for success in the 21st century. Students, teachers, and administrators were an integral part of this search and played a critical role in the selection of a new system. Every teacher in the school system had the opportunity to share feedback in multiple ways. The transition to Schoology provided teachers and students with a modern alternative. Schoology also provided the learning community with a more cohesive learning experience as it allowed teachers to seamlessly build learning activities that could easily be shared, copied, and/or modified by their colleagues. The

platform supports a more personalized approach to learning by empowering students throughout the entire learning experience based on their personal interests and needs.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The process of HCPS’ implementation of Schoology exhibits a commitment to the needs of the learners and the strategic implementation of a critical new learning platform. The thoroughness of this commitment can be seen in the inclusion of teachers and parents throughout the process, and the inclusion of students in the request-for-proposal committee – a first for the division. This could form a model for other school divisions seeking to smoothly and transparently implement the best technology choices for their school systems. In many instances, school divisions tend to take a top-down approach to technology and roll out new initiatives with little or no consultation outside of the managing department. This initiative was a clear-cut plan created in collaboration with instructional leadership – one that incorporates learner agency, balanced assessment, and family engagement. An emphasis on learning and engaging the platform’s primary users was the driving force throughout the implementation.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

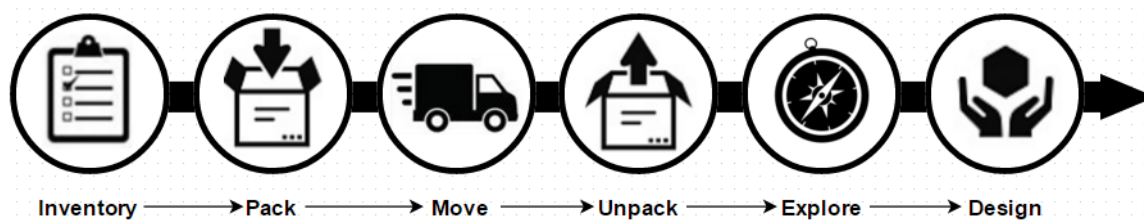
There was a strong need for a new platform that met the needs of today and could adapt for the future. HCPS’ learning landscape includes a technical infrastructure that affords us with the opportunity to leverage sophisticated technologies to provide our teachers and learners with access to a variety of high quality, authentic resources.

Our efforts at finding a replacement platform began in December 2014, and continued through procurement in August 2015. The selection of the new platform was based on a variety of factors, but there were several new and exciting features that HCPS wanted in a new system:

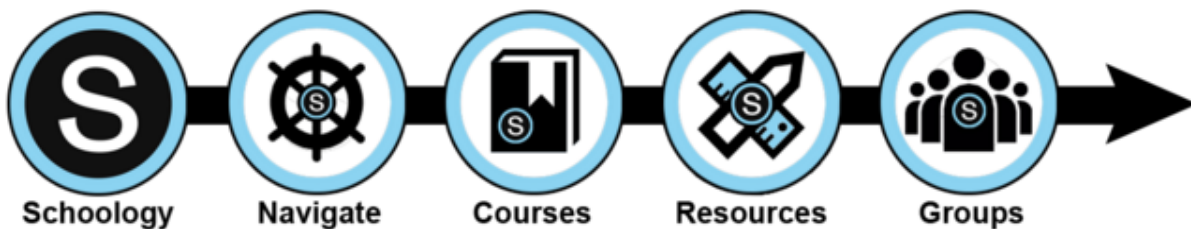
- Schoology is cloud-based, which allows teachers and students to work from anywhere and access the information from any device. Schoology's cloud-based nature allows for automatic software and security updates. Most importantly, it allows for increased collaboration. Teams can access, edit, and share documents anytime, from anywhere in real-time.
- Schoology integrates with our student information system, PowerSchool. This allows for real-time data on student performance that can be synchronized with the PowerSchool grade book. There is no more manual inputting of grades for teachers and students. Classroom teachers are empowered with data to drive their learning.
- Schoology has an application center that allows teachers to connect to third-party resources providing an integrated one-stop digital shop. Examples: Google Apps for Education (such as Drive, Docs, Slides, and Sheets), YouTube for Education, Khan Academy, Explore Learning, etc.
- Schoology has a native assessment tool that provides technology-enhanced items and audio functionality that will support the development of students' digital test-taking skills as they prepare for SOL tests.
- Schoology has a mobile application that will keep students, teachers and parents connected to the learning environment from any location at any time.

After identifying a replacement solution, the division worked with all teaching and learning stakeholders to create a cohesive, relevant training plan that supported a seamless transition into a new learning environment. Training included a series of steps that helped all groups move from our old system to the new system. Just as we strive to empower our student learners, we used this same belief to shape our training. The division used a blended approach and allowed educators choices in how they completed training. Feedback about the transition was overwhelmingly positive.

Transition from School Space to Schoology Training



Getting Started with Schoology Training

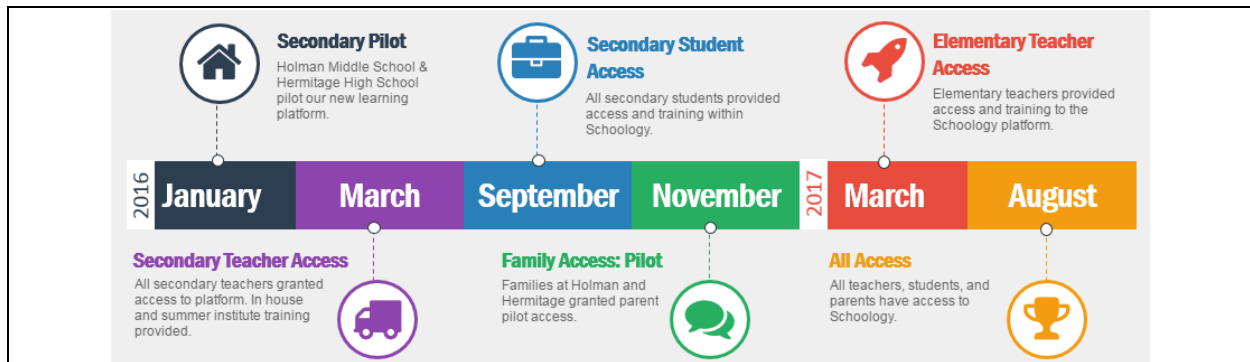


Transparency, communication and access were ongoing themes for supporting our teacher and student transition. HCPS’ three-year implementation plan focuses on four criteria as indicators of success:

- Goal 1: Support the design of quality content and learning activities
- Goal 2: Build capacity to deliver instruction that empowers learners

- Goal 3: Promote a balanced assessment of learning
- Goal 4: Engage families and community in learning

The implementation included a pilot with teachers, students and parents that shaped the strategic steps outlined in Henrico’s implementation plan. Continued efforts to monitor our implementation and the needs of our learners will remain a focus throughout our use of the platform.



Educational specialist input sessions	Dec. 5 and 11, 2015; Jan. 15, 2015
Teacher liaison input session (secondary)	Feb. 20, 2015
Student Congress input session	April 15, 2015
TAC meeting	March 20, 2015
Computer contact meeting (elementary)	Feb. 23 and 25, 2015
Distribution of “Request for Proposals” and advertisement	April 22, 2015
Vendor selected	Aug. 26, 2015
Contract completed	August to September 2015
School Board meeting	Sept. 24, 2015
Second semester pilot in 1 HS and 1 MS	Feb. 1, 2016

5. Financing and Staffing

The costs for an annual subscription to Schoology are as follows:

Year 1: \$35,250

Year 2: \$98,500

Years 3-5: \$171,500

6. Program Results

HCPS' implementation of a new platform for learning supported our school division's ability to create a culture of teaching and learning. This culture engages our learning community in creating, refining, and sharing quality instructional materials. Schoology makes it easier for teachers, students, and parents to help plan, deliver, and assess instruction using an ever-evolving platform. Some of the improvements for teachers include a streamlined workflow, easy tracking of due dates, automatic enrollment of students and groups, and the ability to share resources and ideas. All of the features can be accessed anytime from any device. Students and parents have 24/7 access to course materials, can get real-time feedback, have an easy way to submit assignments, can access and monitor student grades, and can collaborate with their peers and teachers.

Schoology statistics (based on 37,943 users):

Total visits: 6,599,310

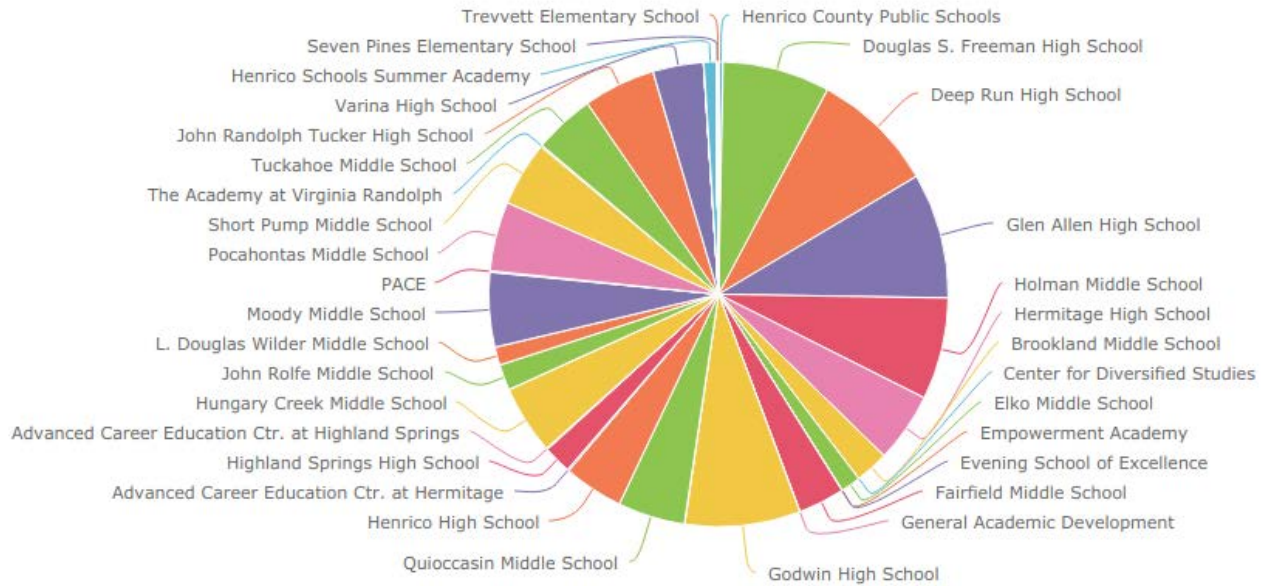
Total page views: 59,795,398

Comments posted: 304,028

Total submissions: 1,515,602

Total file uploads: 1,126,405

Page visits per school



7. Brief Summary

HCPS' process of adopting Schoology as its new learning platform focused on the design of quality content and learning activities and on the delivery of instruction that empowers learners. Our efforts also emphasized a balanced assessment of learning, along with engaging families and the community in the learning process.

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the needs of the modern learner. As a result, teachers and students were finding alternatives that began to create a disjointed learning experience. From class to class, teachers and students were using different learning management systems and digital tools. This made it difficult for all student grade levels to access content. It also made it a challenge for teachers and parents.

Many teachers and students who had been using the previous platform were looking for a new system that could meet their current needs and offer additional benefits with a more modern, easy-to-use interface. A wide variety of stakeholders gave feedback about features they’d like to see in a new learning management system. Division and school instructional leadership, teachers, students, and the community were the key stakeholders who informed the proposal process. Technology changes rapidly, and one of the most popular feature requests was that the division choose a platform that is continually updated and evolves to meet the needs of HCPS.

To successfully accomplish this, the HCPS Department of Instruction, Instructional Technology, and Operational Technology worked to find a replacement. We needed the ability to allow instructional leaders to manage, track and deliver content, courses and professional development in our schools – content that inspires, empowers, and educates every student to be prepared for success in the 21st century. Students, teachers, and administrators were an integral part of this search and played a critical role in the selection of a new system. Every teacher in the school system had the opportunity to share feedback in multiple ways. The transition to Schoology involved stakeholders intimately in providing teachers and students with a modern alternative. Schoology is now available to 50,762 students, more than 5,000 staff members, and approximately 100,000 families and parents divisionwide. HCPS’ process of adopting this major technological tool ensures that we have a learning platform that specifically meets our current and future instructional technology needs.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

[Schoology Video](#)

[Learning Platform Implementation Plan](#)

[Elementary Presentation](#)

[School Board Overview](#)

[Student Input Session](#)