



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2020.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico

Program Title: Creating a Culture of Life-Ready Learners

Program Category: Information Technology

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis

Title: Public Relations Specialist

Department: Public Relations

Telephone: 804-501-4933 **Website:** www.henrico.us

Email: dav127@henrico.us

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Brandon Hinton

Title: Deputy County Manager for Administration

Signature: 

Program Overview

The rapidly changing workforce has expanded our understanding of what it means to provide every child with an education that prepares them for a full and productive life. Students today must compete in a global, knowledge-based, innovation-centered economy. Students must also have opportunities to cultivate their knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to thrive in an increasingly diverse and global society. Because of this, Henrico County Public Schools developed a “learner profile” that would synthesize seemingly different frameworks into a common vision for all students. The profile addresses the question: what should Henrico students learn and how should they learn it?

The various elements of the Henrico Learner Profile include:

- Middle school transformation.
- STEAM (science, technology, engineering, the arts and math).
- A teaching innovation progression chart.
- The “Profile of a Virginia Graduate.”
- College and Career Readiness.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The Virginia Department of Education issued new graduation requirements for students in the commonwealth of Virginia, to take effect in 2021. The new requirements were outlined in a guiding document called the “Profile of a Virginia Graduate,” specifying the skills and knowledge students should possess when leaving Virginia schools. This Virginia profile places more emphasis on soft skills, rather than standardized testing, which was a larger focus in the past.

This new state document was one of the primary reasons prompting Henrico County Public Schools to develop a new learning model that includes a common language framework, specifying what it means to be “life-ready.” The new state requirements created a challenge for Henrico County Schools: what are the best ways to create a program that could meet these needs and educate students, school leaders and families? The result was the Henrico Learner Profile. The initiative involved a gradual rollout and access to online resources that communicated with all stakeholders the “why, what and how” behind the project, as well as the development of a progression that allowed for measurable goals.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The success of the Henrico Learner Profile has become a cultural and academic touchstone of the school division — one which could be replicated by other localities seeking to ensure that students become prepared for life beyond their years in school. Its success is evident in the extent to which it has become the school division’s guiding academic blueprint. Henrico Schools’ commitment to this culture, and the profile’s excellence and innovation, is displayed in our Henrico Schools Strategic Plan. The buy-in is also evident in the commitment of our innovative learning coaches to support our schools on a daily basis to bring the Henrico Learner Profile to life in our classrooms. Success can also be seen in the professional learning opportunities offered to our staff through our Life-Ready Summer Conference, and the extent to which all HPCS departments are embracing our profile as they develop learning opportunities for students and others. This work is critical in preparing our graduates to take their place as active participants in a globally driven and increasingly complex technological world. Through this commitment, Henrico Schools is preparing students for lifelong success and setting the stage for their contributions to society.

How Program Was Carried Out

The Profile of a Virginia Graduate defines what is needed to ensure that Virginia students are graduating with the knowledge, skills and attributes necessary for success in life. Henrico County Public Schools responded to this initiative by creating our own Henrico Learner Profile. The Henrico Learner Profile intentionally places students at the center of their learning and highlights the knowledge, skills and attributes they need in order to be life-ready.

Beginning in 2016, middle school principals started to explore and define the necessary conditions for students to learn the Virginia curriculum. At the same time, they would need to gain the necessary skills to become:

- Creative thinkers.
- Effective communicators.
- Critical thinkers and problem-solvers.
- Global citizens.
- Citizens who exhibit exemplary character.

Principal feedback, teacher questionnaires and student interviews helped us fine-tune the profile with the result representing the student journey from pre-K to 12th grade. As a student progresses in their education, teachers use the “Deeper Learning” model in order to help students achieve the necessary skills and attributes in becoming life-ready.



The Henrico Learner Profile defines the outcomes and skills that all learners (not just students) need for life-readiness. At the center is the learner, collecting the knowledge they need from the Virginia Standards of Learning test curriculum. Surrounding the learner are the four skills (creative thinker, critical thinker, collaborator and communicator) and the two attributes (quality character and global citizen) that learners need to develop to find life success. The surrounding blue band is our Deeper Learning model. This model defines the four pillars of instructional design needed to create the needed learning environment where the knowledge, skills and attributes can be realized to their full extent. This learning model states that learning:

- Happens anytime, anywhere.
- Is authentic and connected.
- Is student-owned.
- Is community-supported.

Through the creation of the Henrico Learner Profile, all learners in our schools can speak, learn and design for life-readiness. Our profile now defines how learning happens in all our schools on a daily basis; that makes learning visible by creating a common language that all stakeholders can speak. Officially unveiled in 2018, the Henrico Learner Profile is guiding our goals within the HCPS strategic plan to ensure deeper learning and life-ready outcomes for all learners. Principals have begun to share examples of success in their buildings. Our innovative learning coaches support teachers with job-embedded professional learning through use of the Henrico learner progression chart. Student versions of the progressions were introduced in 2019 to empower students to monitor their own growth. Evidence of student learning can be found in our Life-Ready Learning Exhibition, a fair where students from each of the 72 school in Henrico are able to share their learning with a broader audience. This annual event showcased the student work over the year that highlights the process and end product of their work that supports the Henrico Learner Profile.

In order to communicate our vision to teachers, students, school leaders and families, the Henrico Learner Profile website was created to tell the story of what it means to be life-ready. This site houses important common language documents, exemplars and progression stages, and provides tutorials and video to help learners understand the Deeper Learning model as well as the six C's.

Financing and Staffing

The cost of the program is diffused across the school division and has had the support of different sources to fund the consultant work needed to develop the model, the professional learning for all stakeholders, and the purchase of equipment and funds to support curriculum writing. Funding sources included secondary STEAM funds, the innovative learning budget, professional

development days through our school division's contract with DELL computing, and federal Title IV funding.

Program Results

The Henrico Learner Profile now articulates the guiding principles for learning among Henrico County learners. Our website has numerous resources and examples that support the initiative, and has received more than 60,000 hits since its creation. Henrico Schools' elementary level is in the process of implementing the Henrico Learner Profile by adding additional elementary innovative learning coaches to create a 1:1 support of school-embedded coaching in our 46 elementary schools, which will happen by fall 2020. Principal meetings have seen more shared examples of success of the Henrico Learner Profile in our classrooms and among staff members. Finally, our Life-Ready Learning Exhibition has grown to showcase the journeys of students from all 72 of our schools in their journeys to become life-ready.

Brief Summary

The rapidly changing workforce has expanded our understanding of what it means to provide every child with an education that prepares them for a full and productive life. Students today must compete in a global, knowledge-based, innovation-centered economy. Students must also have opportunities to cultivate their knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to thrive in an increasingly diverse and global society. Because of this, Henrico County Public Schools developed a "learner profile" that would synthesize seemingly different frameworks into a common vision for all students. The profile addresses the question: what should Henrico students learn and how should they learn it?

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The model has become the school division’s guiding academic blueprint.

- [HLP Blog](#)
- [Henrico Learner Profile](#)
- [Life-Ready Learning Exhibition](#)
- [Life-Ready Learning Video](#)

Creating a Culture of Life-Ready Learners

Supplemental Material

[HLP Blog](#)

[Henrico Learner Profile](#)

[Life-Ready Learning Exhibition](#)

[Life-Ready Learning Video](#)

