



## SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2022.** Please include this submission form with the 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:** \_\_\_\_\_Chesterfield County\_\_\_\_\_

**Program Title:** \_Learning With You\_\_\_\_\_

**Program Category:** \_\_\_Community & Economic Development\_\_\_\_\_

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

Learning With You  
(Community & Economic Development)

**ABSTRACT OF THE PROGRAM:**

Chesterfield County Public Schools (CCPS) created a new program to outreach and engage with our multicultural communities called Learning With You. This new program is designed to help members of the multicultural community connect with CCPS and empowers these residents to understand and navigate the CCPS system, as well as connect to other community resources.

The first round of this free program took place twice per month in November and December 2021, 6-8:30 p.m., offering the participants information about the school division including resources available for students and families while helping CCPS leaders connect with and learn more about multicultural communities.

During the sessions, participants met with school' leaders and were able to ask questions about several topics. They gained information about their local school system, learned how to resolve issues, and obtained information and resources not only related to school issues, but in general situations.

Upon graduation, participants will be able to help their communities to better understand and access the school services and programs. Graduates also will have the opportunity to interact with residents from other communities through the Learning with You alumni network.

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**THE PROBLEM OR NEED FOR THE PROGRAM:**

Immigrants and newcomers often struggle to find the school services and programs they are looking for. There are different reasons for those difficulties including language, cultural and belief barriers, and many others.

With the pandemic, many more people and families have been working harder every day to succeed and find the resources they need to survive. Many of these people keep stressed thinking about their own children's education, health and wellbeing. They depend totally or partially on the educational resources and services that the school system offers to their children. Paradoxically, in many cases those services and programs are unknown even to people who were born here or who have lived for years in the county.

Immigrants are afraid to approach government agencies. This fear prevents them from seeking solutions to their transportation, education, security, etc. These fears cause them to do nothing, thereby increasing the chances of greater consequences not only for themselves but also for the entire community. For example, a school health emergency could lead to worse consequences for the school or prove fatal for the newcomer's community.

Fear of government and school authorities as well as ignorance of the school programs, services and resources available in CCPS can greatly affect the well-being of the multicultural children and their families as well as the greater community.

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In the past CCPS has not had the necessary tools to reach these communities and prevent incidents and situations that can be addressed with training, timely, and appropriate information.

Learning with You was designed specifically to fill those gaps in services and information that the multicultural and newcomer members of our community can experience while living in the county.

**Description of the Program:**

In May 2021, we began planning Learning with You, a special orientation program designed to welcome and empower residents, especially those from multicultural communities, to understand and navigate CCPS' system, as well as other community resources.

The sessions included roundtable discussions and informative classroom sessions with networking breaks.

Our first academy had 26 participants from 9 home countries, including Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nigeria and Peru.

The sessions were held twice a month on Wednesdays, from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. During the sessions, participants met with school leaders and school department directors, explored how their local school system works, and learned how to resolve issues, and obtained information

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and resources. Sessions were scheduled in the main school administration facilities to provide participants a sense of belonging, and welcoming atmosphere.

Participants graduated in February 2022 during a CCPS Board meeting. An additional 22 participants graduated, receiving their certificates, in a ceremony June 7, 2022.

The academy was free to participants due to the school commitment with our multicultural students and families. Participation was open to individuals who live or work in Chesterfield County, have children in CCPS or those who are members of organizations that serve CCPS.

Academy presenters were school leaders from various divisions and departments, who offered their expertise about county school programs and services, as well as community leaders who connected participants to additional community resources.

Many of our participants were those who were already actively involved in their communities, including members of Casa de la Salud, Families First and the African Community Network. They have proven leadership abilities, and they are already disseminating the information they learned in Learning with You within their individual communities. Each of our graduates is an important resource in helping his or her communities to better understand and access school services. Now that they have graduated, they will continue to interact with residents from other communities through the Learning with You alumni network.

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**ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (OPTIONAL):**

Chesterfield County Public Schools is a system where more than 100 languages have been identified, meaning that students, teachers, staff and visitors speak all those languages. In addition, it means that several cultures are represented in our schools.

As CCPS slogan states: “All means All”, we at CCPS are committed to provide the same information, service, assistance and support to all families and students. In an effort to outreach and support them, we created Learning with You as a way to teach and let them know that CCPS has all the services, programs and resources that their children need to succeed in life. In the same direction, we gave participants and parents the peace of mind about how safe and protected their children are while at the schools.

Our diverse population was isolated from some services and programs due to different reasons and barriers, but now they started being aware about CCPS services and programs, as well as the commitment we have with all of our county residents.

CCPS multicultural members understand that CCPS is not only a school organization but it is their children's second home.

Learning with You gave us a real perception about how multicultural communities are afraid and reluctant from government agencies and other authorities. However, once they receive the information and a trusted relationship is created, all of them are happy, accessible and open to support and work with us. It was the case of our first experience with Learning with You when

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some participants were reluctant to talk about their journey coming to America, but minutes later, they started to open their minds and share with all of us their own experiences, as well as experiences from relatives and friends. We proved that interacting with these communities is not only providing them the tools, but also patience, warm, open, friendly and honest.

**The Cost of the Program:**

The only costs associated with Learning With You were for materials (binders, supplies and certificates) and the meals eaten by participants and presenters.

- Supplies: \$90.00
- Meals: 4 evenings at approximately \$240.00 per evening for a total of \$960.00

**The Results/Success of the Program:**

Learning with You as an orientation program provided the tools and knowledge to participants so they could not only navigate the school system and find the programs and services for themselves, but also educate their communities on how to find school and community services and programs.

These participants, who are now Learning With You alumni, are CCPS ambassadors in their communities, not only to share what they learned, but to encourage their own people to attend future academies.

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Learning With You is creating our future community leaders and helping them to achieve their own personal, professional and family goals and solve their needs while supporting the community.

One of the participants expressed one marvelous example of how the academy makes a difference in our community during the graduation.

“It was very important to me to participate in Learning With You. I learned about all the different programs and services CCPS offers to its residents. There are many families, not just in CCPS but nationwide and not just Latinos, but people from many countries, cultures and backgrounds who are great members of our community and want to succeed, but they need opportunities such as Learning with You. I am a Latina mom, and I have a child who is a special kid and thanks to the academy, I was able to gain knowledge about school programs and services to better assist my son and my family.”

Learning With You is changing and transforming the lives of our community members, especially those underserved and those who typically do not have easy access to services, programs and resources in CCPS. Due to the Learning with You Academy, for the first time a Latino is a member of one of the school boards. For this particular case, the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee.



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Some of the participants and many other Latinos and members of the multicultural community have applied for and secured job opportunities with CCPS.

New school and multicultural partner projects are being discussed to support our students' education as a result of the academy as well.

**Worthiness of Award:**

CCPS is aware that each member of our community deserves the same services and opportunities. It is part of the equity model that any modern society must follow. We in CCPS have a social responsibility to all our residents and it is our duty to give back and provide support to our entire community.

Recognizing that all people have potential, but may not, all have the same opportunities to succeed and achieve their goals. With Learning With You, CCPS hopes to reach our multicultural communities to provide tools and information about how to access resources and opportunities that will lead to a better quality of life.

The gap between multicultural communities and the school system by overcoming the barriers, difficulties, immigration status, fear of government agencies, illiteracy from members of the immigrant community, all these components are crucial when making home decisions about the children's education. Learning with You is a way to let them know about all the real

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possibilities that CCPS offer to all regardless of everything, as well as the services for those who do not speak English and are not familiar with the American education system.

In CCPS we are convinced that we are stronger together, and when we are inclusive, our doors must be open and accessible to all. We believe that it is imperative that immigrants have access to integration support and opportunities to contribute back to their communities.

Learning With You is the catalyst to effectively integrate our multicultural members by supporting and engaging them in our community.

**Supplemental Materials:**

- Flier (ATTACHED)
- Web application (ATTACHED)
- Graduation Pictures (ATTACHED)

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Flier



Aprendiendo Contigo está diseñado para ayudar a los miembros de la comunidad multicultural a conectarse y aprender más sobre las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Chesterfield. Este programa gratuito de cuatro partes es nuevo y forma parte de ¡CCPS on the Go! Learning with You cubrirá temas que afectan la educación pública y los servicios y recursos disponibles para los estudiantes y las familias en las escuelas de Chesterfield.

Los participantes obtendrán una descripción general de la división escolar y luego profundizarán en temas como el presupuesto, la instrucción, las operaciones y la planificación a largo plazo. Esta es una oportunidad para aprender más sobre las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Chesterfield y desarrollar una comprensión de todos los componentes que forman parte de una de las divisiones escolares más grandes de la nación.

Estamos buscando 25 líderes multiculturales que estén conectados con sus comunidades para participar en el programa, compartir lo que aprenden sobre las Escuelas Públicas del Condado de Chesterfield y recomendar participantes para futuras oportunidades.

Cada sesión de Aprendiendo Contigo tendrá lugar de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Edificio de Administración de la Junta Escolar, ubicado en 9900 Krause Road. Se proporcionará comida.

Estos son los temas previstos para cada sesión:

- 3 de noviembre: Descripción general de la división escolar, el plan estratégico y la Junta Escolar
- 10 de noviembre: Operaciones
- 1 de diciembre: Liderazgo escolar y servicios de apoyo estudiantil
- 8 de diciembre: Oportunidades para estudiantes

Para [registrarse](#), por favor visite

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY\\_O0oTcRKtyMQSFPpasnnrczx9x6CLP\\_Du7P4U/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY_O0oTcRKtyMQSFPpasnnrczx9x6CLP_Du7P4U/edit)

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## Learning With You

Learning With You is designed to help members of the multicultural community connect with and learn more about Chesterfield County Public Schools. This free, four-part program is new and part of CCPS on the Go! Learning with You will cover topics that affect public education and the services and resources available to students and families in Chesterfield schools.

Participants will get an overview of the school division, and then take a deeper dive into topics like budgeting, instruction, operations and long-range planning. This is an opportunity to learn more about Chesterfield County Public Schools and develop an understanding of all the components that go into one of the largest school divisions in the nation.

We are seeking 25 multicultural leaders who are connected to their communities to participate in the program, share what they learn about Chesterfield County Public Schools and recommend participants for future opportunities.

Each Learning with You session will take place 6-8:30 p.m. at the School Board Administration Building, located at 9900 Krause Road. Food will be provided.

Here are the topics planned for each session:

- Nov. 3: Overview of school division, strategic plan and School Board
- Nov. 10: Operations
- Dec. 1: School leadership and student support services
- Dec. 8: Opportunities for students

To [register](#), please visit

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY\\_O0oTcRKtyMQSFPPasnrczx9x6CLP\\_Du7P4U/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY_O0oTcRKtyMQSFPPasnrczx9x6CLP_Du7P4U/edit)

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Web application

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY\\_00oTcRKtyMQSFPpasnnczx9x6CLP/Du7P4U/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/13zA70hY_00oTcRKtyMQSFPpasnnczx9x6CLP/Du7P4U/edit)





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Graduation's Pics