



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** 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: County of Henrico

Program Title: Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Programs

Program Category: Health and Human Services

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Program Overview

Henrico County Public Schools endeavors to ensure all students are ready for life after graduation. One attribute of life-readiness is citizenship. As global citizens, students learn to serve as active participants in a larger society, demonstrating empathy, compassion and respect for fellow community members as defined by the [Henrico Learner Profile](#). Connecting citizenship to technology's increasing role in our daily lives, the school division provides instructional programs and resources that support digital citizenship and internet safety for all students, staff members and families.

At the elementary level, programming that fosters digital citizenship and social and emotional learning is implemented through regular school counseling curricula. The Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum programs support students' functional literacy as digital citizens, as outlined in the [Virginia Department of Education's "Digital Learning Integration Standards: Digital Citizen Strand."](#) The programs align with the social and emotional learning goals outlined in "Destination 2025: A Plan for HCPS," the division's strategic plan. Programs supporting elementary digital citizenship, and social and emotional learning use the research-backed educational resources provided by [Common Sense Media](#) and allow students to apply their knowledge through performance tasks.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The growing role of technology in daily life makes it paramount that students learn to serve as digital citizens. Today's students must learn to recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world and to act in safe, legal and ethical ways. Students must successfully manage and make informed choices about their digital activity. To do this, students must incorporate social and emotional learning, focus on their health and well-being, and successfully manage and make informed choices about their digital activity.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum is a key component for building the necessary skills for all students to be successful beyond their K-12 journeys. Building these skills is relevant to school divisions everywhere. The program's importance is reflected in HCPS' recognition as a "Common-Sense School Division" by Common Sense Media, a leading research-backed nonprofit supporting digital citizenship. This Common

Sense recognition demonstrates the school division's commitment to our students, staff members and families in supporting safe digital environments and behaviors. Supporting students' life-readiness, as defined by the Henrico Learner Profile, is at the heart of the division's strategic plan, "Destination 2025."

How Program Was Carried Out

HCPS' programs in digital citizenship and social and emotional learning use Common Sense Media's research-based curriculum (that promotes social and emotional learning and digital citizenship with CASEL-aligned activities) to develop the competencies defined in the Virginia Department of Education's student standard for digital citizenship. The K-5 curriculum, created through a collaboration with HCPS' departments of Innovation and School Counseling, reaches approximately 21,500 elementary students through weekly school counseling lessons. The elementary school counselor delivers the curriculum with support from the school's innovative learning coach. To reinforce the idea that teaching digital citizenship is a shared responsibility, classroom teachers receive access to the curriculum map and schedule. With innovation learning coaches' help, they connect to skills students have learned in the classroom.

Throughout the curriculum, teaching and learning digital citizenship includes a call for students to:

- Recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living and working in an interconnected digital world and act in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.
- Cultivate and manage their digital identity and reputation and are aware of the permanence of their actions in the digital world.
- Engage in positive, safe, legal and ethical behavior when using technology, social interactions online and networked devices.
- Demonstrate an understanding and respect for the rights and obligations of using and sharing intellectual property.
- Manage their personal data to maintain digital privacy and security and to be aware of data-collection technology used to track their online activity.

Student assessments aligned with each learning experience allow students to show the skills they have mastered. The curriculum is one portion of a larger school-based digital citizenship plan designed and implemented annually as part of the HCPS Safety Plan. This plan meets federal and state requirements and aligns with HCPS School Board policies to deliver instructional programs and resources that support digital citizenship and internet safety for all students, staff members and families.

Financing and Staffing

No capital costs were incurred during the implementation of this project. Operating costs include the contracted work time of the innovative learning coaches, elementary school counselors and innovative specialists. It also includes contributions from the HCPS School Counseling Department and directors from the HCPS Department of Teaching, Learning and Innovation. These school division participants create the curriculum and provide the professional learning necessary for its implementation.

Program Results

The Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum ensures that students receive a foundation in becoming global digital citizens, capable of navigating the digital world and managing their health and well-being as members of it. The inclusion of performance tasks allows a balanced assessment approach and the opportunity for students to apply the knowledge and skills they have learned.

Brief Summary

The Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Curriculum programs at HCPS have been able to make digital citizenship a core part of the student experience. As technology becomes more prevalent in everyday life – and in education – it's vital for students to grow up with the understanding of what digital citizenship means and how to interact with the online world. Counselors have worked with innovative learning specialists to build a curriculum and distribute it to the thousands of elementary school students at HCPS, with assessments showing the growth students are making within the realm of digital citizenship. These programs have been a necessary step in equipping students with the information and power they need to co-exist with the future of technology.

**Elementary Digital Citizenship and Social and Emotional Learning Programs
Supplemental Material**

[Elementary Digital Citizenship Curriculum Map](#)