



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** 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: Educational Excursion: Aviation Day
Program Category: Regional Collaboration

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Victoria Davis
Title: Public Relations Specialist
Department: Public Relations
Telephone: 804-501-4933 Website: www.henrico.gov
Email: dav127@henrico.gov

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Monica Smith-Callahan
Title: Deputy County Manager for Community Affairs
Signature: 

Program Overview

In alignment with Henrico County Public Schools' initiative of preparing students to be enrolled, enlisted or employed — the division's "three E's" — the HCPS Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity has made a concerted effort to provide educational excursions for students to experience life-ready opportunities for learning. In May 2023, the Office partnered with the Capital Region Airport Commission to organize an educational trip for a group of 15 high school students to tour Richmond International Airport and gain firsthand experience of the careers offered by the airport at the Aviation Career Showcase event.

Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

These opportunities are forms of engagement that consider students' individual needs and what it takes to meet them where they are. This includes school connectedness and engendering a feeling of belonging. Belonging provides space and place — engagement — with the goal of ensuring achievement (becoming enrolled, enlisted and employed) and social, emotional and mental well-being. The HCPS Office of Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity discussed schools' limited abilities to plan and facilitate field trips and off-site opportunities for learning. These difficulties include parent communication, school space, securing emergency contacts and transportation.

How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

The Aviation Career Showcase opened options for HCPS students to engage in a hands-on, in-person field trip that allowed them to ask questions, learn academic language and use industry-specific vocabulary. The event was the first of its kind between the school division and the Capital Region Airport Commission, but it is expected to continue as an annual opportunity for students. It opened the door to potential, available career paths and opportunities that students may not

know existed — particularly those that are located in their own community at this airport in Henrico County. The visit successfully utilized a partnership with a pillar of the community to enhance opportunities for these students.

How Program Was Carried Out

The HCPS Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity partnered with the Capital Region Airport Commission to plan an opportunity for students to visit Richmond International Airport. Students were welcomed by the chief officer and board of Richmond International Airport and engaged in a three-pronged approach to learning about aviation. Students were selected by their school counselors, as the Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity collaborated with the HCPS Department of School Counseling to identify students who would best suit the nature of the excursion.

First, the students were met by the chief officers and board, including the director of human resources, who talked about the role of aviation in society and the vast opportunities available in the aviation field. Students were provided with handouts to help them understand aviation terminology. The representatives also discussed salary and career mobility with the students. The discussion took place in a formal boardroom, helping students envision themselves in such positions.

Next, students entered the field space, where they were able to touch and observe aircrafts and learn about their mechanics from professionals who have carved out successful yet accessible career paths in aviation. After the field study, students returned to the board room for lunch and a question-and-answer session. They were able to apply the collective knowledge from the first two parts of the field trip to the question-and-answer session, having become more familiar with the previously discussed jobs and careers.

The Cost of the Program

The development and implementation of the Aviation Career Showcase event involved both capital and operating costs, reflecting a commitment to excellence and inclusivity. The primary resource investment was the specialized expertise of an HCPS staff specialist, who dedicated months to meticulously plan and organize the event. This professional made sure the program aligned with the goals of the school division's Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity. The event incurred an estimated cost of approximately \$800, which was used for various elements essential to the event's success. Students were provided with breakfast and lunch, as well as books on aviation.

Program Results

Students provided feedback that included their interest in pursuing careers and jobs in the aviation industry. They noted that the Aviation Career Showcase enlightened them about aviation opportunities they would not have been aware of. Much of the trip provided students with hands-on, in-person discussion with professionals at Richmond International Airport, allowing them to see the vast variety of occupations needed to ensure the airport's operation and services. Students left the experience with a more holistic view of the aviation field and a clear idea about paths to access those careers, whether they were already interested in careers like engineering, piloting and maintenance or just being exposed to it for the first time. This is growing into a partnership and opportunity that will serve HCPS, the Capital Region Airport Commission and students for years to come.

Brief Summary

The HCPS Office of Equity, Diversity and Opportunity targeted this opportunity to students with an interest in aviation, math or science, but who otherwise might not have the option to access a

local organization like Richmond International Airport to pursue a related career path. This equitable exchange of information not only positioned students for greater career access, but also gave airport personnel the chance to engage with potential future employees.

Educational Excursion: Aviation Day Supplemental Material

Pictures from the Aviation Career Showcase are included here:

