



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2025.** Please include this submission form as the first page of your 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: Henrico County, Virginia

Program Title: Springer Preschool: Students Renovating for Students

Program Category: Community Development, Economic Development and Land Use

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Eileen Cox

Title: Chief of Communications, Henrico County Public Schools

Signature: *Eileen M. Cox*

1. Summary

During the summer of 2024, students in two Henrico County Public Schools summer programs helped make major contributions to the school division's Springer Academy Preschool facility at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs. Students in the summer building trades program and the construction exploration summer camp course made important improvements to the Springer Preschool Academy building. The school division acquired the Springer Preschool Academy building in the 1990s and it was ready for renovations, including upgrades to finishes, lighting fixtures, floors, walls, siding, electrical fixtures, HVAC systems and security systems. Student workers from the Advanced Career Education Center program were hired as summer leaders and mentors to work alongside novice camp attendees and those new to construction. In three short months, the staff and students successfully updated a 5400-square-foot building which reopened in August for the 2024-25 school year — to the delight of excited teachers, families and students.

2. The Problem or Need for the Program

The HCPS Springer Preschool Academy — named for its proximity to Highland Springs High School and its “Springer” mascot — needed many updates to help bring the building up to a level of excellence expressed in the school division's other programs and facilities. The building became a part of the ACE Center at Highland Springs in the 1990s and had provided love to many students over the years. It was time to update the finishes, lighting fixtures, floors, walls, siding, electrical fixtures, HVAC systems and security systems. Because the building sits at the edge of the ACE Center campus, administrators decided it would be an excellent summer building trades program project for new students.

3. Description of the Program

The HCPS summer building trades program is a unique opportunity for high school students to learn about construction trades, including carpentry, masonry, air conditioning and refrigeration, low-voltage networking and electricity. For six weeks in the summer, students attend the program from 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. During their time in the program, they earn their OSHA-10 certification and earn a half credit toward their diploma.

New for 2024-25, the summer program established a construction exploration camp for middle school students interested in exploring construction trades. The camp ran for three weeks in the summer, from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students in the program were able to visit and learn more about construction trades by working with the building trades teachers and students on the project.

4. The Cost of the Program (Approx. $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 page...capital and operating costs in development and implementation and costs to replicate elsewhere)

The HCPS Department of Workforce and Career Development's House Building Vocational Foundation provided half the costs of the project and the HCPS Facilities Department was able to fund the other half. The project had an estimated cost of \$125,000.

5. The Results/Success of the Program

This program provided students with an opportunity to renovate an existing area of the ACE Center at Highland Springs campus, work with a client (in this case, the principal) to their specifications and to design and renovate an existing space. Collaboration was also instrumental during this project and students learned how to address challenges that arise with every renovation project, where unexpected challenges must be handled during the process.

Students earned OSHA10 safety cards and learned about carpentry, electricity, HVAC, networking and masonry during the project.

6. Worthiness of Award

This program was a tremendous opportunity for students to give back to the school division and school with improvements that will serve the needs of the community and ACE Center. Students were able to use what they learned immediately in a real-life opportunity that was a needed solution for a real client. By seeing a project through from start to finish, students were also able to build their confidence in running a project.

6. Supplementary materials

- [HCPS video about the project](#)



