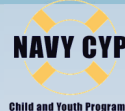




SCHOOL LIAISON PROGRAM NEWS



Career & Technical Education (CTE) at Work

Secondary Career and Technical Education programs help students develop technical academic and workforce skills that can be applied to employment or to additional postsecondary education. As demands in workforce needs shift in favor of employees with practical knowledge and skills, it is important that state policies in this area provide students with pathways from high school that lead to employment and education. In response to this, King George High School (KGHS) is expanding their work-based learning as part of the Dept. of Education's Challenge Z program. To meet the challenge, KGHS is seeking partnerships with local businesses to provide internships, job-shadowing, networking, service learning, mentorships, cooperative learning, etc. in 17 career clusters as well as military branch.

At the same token, Charles County Public Schools' CTE programs of interest consisting of arts, media and communication, business management and finance, construction and development, consumer services, hospitality and tourism, etc. has partnerships within the community on apprenticeships and internships, career shadowing and tours in the workplace, mentorship, industry training for the staff, etc. Participating students start the apprenticeship program in the summer or fall of their junior or senior year and must complete at least 450 hours of paid work-based training under the supervision of an eligible employer and one year of related instruction.

To meet the demand of skilled employees, the State of VA's G3— Get a Skill, Get A Job, Get Ahead provides a tuition-free degree on construction and skilled trades, early childhood education, health care, IT/Cyber security & Public Safety. The program is available at participating colleges. Check it out at [Virginia G3 Tuition Assistance for Community College Programs](#).

Based from studies, work-based learning experiences help students with low incomes improve employment and earnings. CTE put students "step ahead" on any skills they choose, to gain industry certifications, leadership development and scholarships. Visit [KGHS CTE](#) and [Charles County Public Schools CTE](#) for info.

Education Department Announces Multilingual Education Campaign

As part of its [Raise the Bar: Create Pathways for Global Engagement](#) initiative, the Department launched "[Being Bilingual is a Superpower](#)" to promote multilingual education and bolster high-quality language programs & a diverse multilingual educator workforce nationwide. This initiative, led by the Department's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), seeks to advance research-based bilingual education and language instruction in early learning settings and beyond. It also strives to further the understanding of bilingualism and biliteracy as an educational and economic imperative for student success, global competitiveness, and engagement. OELA hosted a [convening](#) with education leaders and stakeholders & the Department's efforts to provide every student a pathway to multilingualism. Additionally, the Secretary released a [letter to families, educators, and school leaders](#) to share resources for English learners, including Raise the Bar [metrics and data visualizations](#), the completed [English Language Family Toolkit](#) (also available in Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic), and a [Seal of Biliteracy infographic](#). (Note: OELA will host a [series of webinars](#) to help introduce and showcase resources, review all six chapters of the toolkit, and recommend ways and best practices to share it with families.)

Source: [November-December 2023 Touching Base, Recent Grant Announcements \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Did You Know?

- The Largest Maritime Expo in the US at Gaylord National Resort, National Harbor, MD starts April 8-10, 2024. For more info, [Sea Air Space - The Navy League's Global Maritime Exposition](#).
- A four-month program where students earn credentials to work in trades that bolster the U.S. defense industry in Danville, Virginia, is the [Accelerated Training in Defense Manufacturing Navy-funded program](#), which provides training in high-demand skills that lead to well-paying jobs with military suppliers.
- PEATC of VA has FREE webinars for families of children with disabilities? IEP University Jan. 8– Jan. 29, 2024, Early Childhood Academy Jan. 19– Feb. 23, 2024, etc. Visit [peatc.org](#) for more information
- Military Interstate Compact ([mic.3](#)). Offers webinar providing assistance to "level the playing field" for the military-connected students as they experience educational issues while transitioning.
- Jan. 17 6 to 8 pm Charles County Public Schools has Scholarship Fair for college-bound students and their parents at College of Southern MD.
- FREE Telehealth sessions are available for CCPS middle and high school students. Check it out at [Hazel](#).
- James E. Richmond Science Center at St. Charles High School offers James Hood's Mesmerica, a visual music journey that brings the mesmerizing music of Grammy-nominated composer and percussionist, James Hood. For tickets, visit [Mesmerica 360 Southern Maryland, MD](#)

"What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year."

Vern McLellan

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