

**Gloucester County Public Schools
&
Mathews County Public Schools**

**Governor's Health Sciences Academy
Executive Summary
May 6, 2013**

Partnership: Gloucester County Public Schools, Mathews County Public Schools, Riverside School of Health Careers, Rappahannock Community College, and New Horizons Regional Education Centers.

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Academy Locations: The Academy will have campuses at Gloucester High School in Gloucester and Matthew High School in Matthew.

Number Students: The Governor's Health Sciences Academy will have the capacity to enroll 80 students, grades 9-12. During the initial school year (2013-2014) applications will be accepted for 40 students.

Career Pathways: Support Services (2013-2014)
Therapeutic Services (2013-2014)
Diagnostic Services (2015-2016)
Health Informatics (2015-2016)
Biotechnology Research and Development (2015-2016)

Academy Goals and Description: The overall goals of the Governor's Health Sciences Academy are to provide expanded options for students' health science literacy and other critical knowledge, skills, and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage, and high-skills health sciences careers in Virginia.

**Academy
Goals and
Descriptions (cont.)**

Specific Governor's Health Sciences Academy objectives include:

1. *Improve academic achievement of Academy students by increasing academic rigor and relevance within selected pathways.*
 - Increase by 20 percent the number of students taking advanced mathematics options beyond Algebra II upon graduation.
 - Increase by 20 percent the number of students taking four years of science upon graduation.
 - Increase by 20 percent the number of Academy students meeting the requirements of the Advanced Studies Diploma.
2. *Increase completion of dual-enrollment courses.*
 - Each Academy pathway is articulated with a postsecondary institution, with the potential to earn a minimum of nine dual-enrollment credits.
 - Dual-enrollment status within Gloucester County CTE programs has increased in 2013. An increase in student enrollment within these programs is a direct result of the partnership with Rappahannock Community College (RCC). The Academy plans to have at least 50 percent of its students earning dual-enrollment credit in the 2014-2015 school year.
3. *Provide work-based learning experiences through strong partnerships with Riverside School of Health Careers and Riverside Walter Reed Hospital.*
 - Attract students to enroll in Academy pathway programs and strengthen student preparation by making work-based learning experiences available to academy students.
 - Work-based learning experiences will include: supervised internships, job shadowing, mentoring, simulations, project-based learning, and guest speakers.
4. *Increase high school graduation rates.*
 - Increase the high school graduation rate by 0.5 percent over the previous year, beginning with the class of 2017.
5. *Reduce dropout rates.*
 - Reduce dropout rates by 0.5 percent over the previous year, beginning with the class of 2017.
6. *Increase enrollment and retention in postsecondary education.*
 - Students will have an opportunity to earn at least nine college credits as defined in the Commonwealth's Early College Scholars Initiative, giving Academy students a community college transcript prior to graduating from high school.
 - Academy completers will be surveyed to determine successful enrollment and retention in postsecondary institutions annually, beginning with Academy students in 2017-2018.
 - Increase Academy completer transition to postsecondary institutions by 10 percent beginning in 2017-2018.
7. *Increase the proportion of students completing a college and work based Learning curriculum in high school.*
 - Increase enrollment in Academy programs annually by 10 percent.
 - Baseline data will be established in the 2016-2017 school year, with criteria including: diploma type, dual-enrollment credit earned, program completer status, and industry credentials earned.
8. *Reduce the proportion of students requiring remediation in college.*
 - Academy students will successfully pass the college-level English and

Mathematics placement tests Virginia Placement Test (VPT) as a criterion for continued enrollment in Academy programs and will, therefore, reduce the need for college remediation for Academy students.

- Preparatory and remediation sessions will be provided for students that do not initially pass the college placement tests based on individual student performance on these assessments.
- The Academy student support structure will help ease postsecondary enrollment transition and improve retention strategies by working with students individually on a case-by-case basis.

9. Increase the number of industry certifications awarded to high school students.

- Baseline data for industry certifications will be established beginning in the 2016-2017 school year, with the criterion to include industry licensure and credentials earned.
- Increase in 2017-2018 by 20 percent the number of Academy students earning industry credentials or licensures to provide well-trained workers to benefit the Greater Peninsula workforce and to meet employment needs across the commonwealth.

10. Increase the number of graduates employed in high-wage, high-skilled careers.

- Seventy percent of Academy graduates will enter postsecondary education or obtain employment within identified career pathways.

Program Highlights:

As a result of participating in the Governor's Health Sciences Academy, students will:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the skills and knowledge incorporated in their health sciences fields of study;
- Benefit from specialized, project-based courses which develop critical-thinking, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, preparing them for the 21st century world;
- Acquire greater communication and collaborative skills;
- Develop workplace readiness skills;
- Receive opportunities to earn industry certifications preparing them to be more competitive in the work force and when applying to advanced training schools or postsecondary institutions;
- Obtain meaningful hands-on experiences in their career pathway studies; and
- Benefit from opportunities for internships, mentorships, clinical, and cooperative experiences, providing the student with an advantage when entering postsecondary education and/or the workplace.