

# Innovating High Schools in the Richmond Region

**cracking the code to next-generation digital literacy for all kids**

**code**  
**RVA**



Governor McAuliffe announced on June 24th that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) would award five \$50,000 high school innovation planning grants to divisions that proposed bold, innovative programs aimed at building the workforce of the 21st century.

Our consortium has applied for a new school to be created in the Metro-Richmond, Region 1.



**National debate over technology focuses heavily on sophisticated skills – more significant impact is on middle skill jobs market**



# National debate over technology focuses heavily on sophisticated skills – more significant impact is on middle skill jobs market

30,000 unfilled Computer Science jobs in Virginia

Seven in 10 digital middle skill jobs in Richmond pay a living wage, compared to only 35% of non-digital middle skill jobs

Digitally-intensive middle skill roles in Richmond pay a 41% premium over non-digital middle skill roles (\$27.67 vs \$19.68)

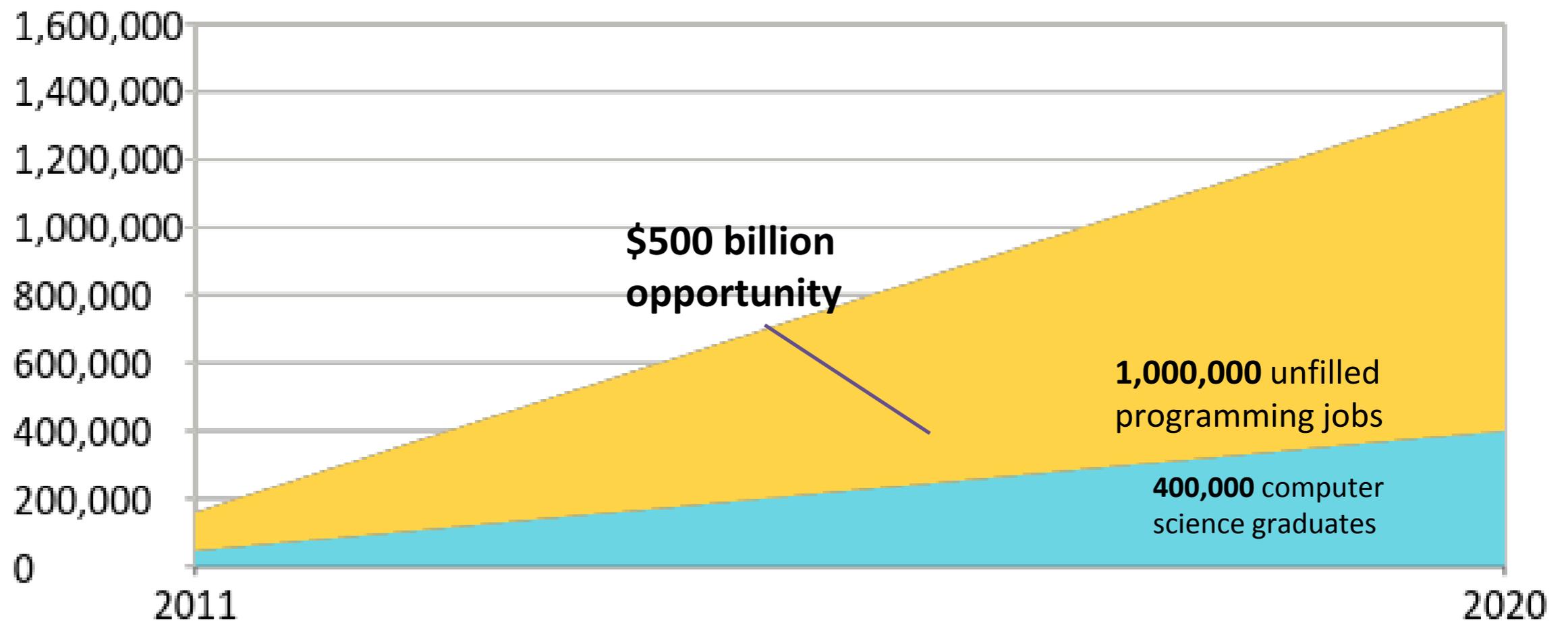
1% of Virginia's students are introduced to Computer Science before graduation



**National debate over technology focuses heavily on sophisticated skills – more significant impact is on middle skill jobs market**

**80% of all in-demand middle-skill jobs call for digital skills**

# Potential 1M unfilled jobs by 2020



# Technology affects every field



**codeRVA**

/kōdRVA/

*verb*

1. Integration of computer science into regional k-12 formal and informal education to increase digital literacy.
2. Children coding.

Innovation beyond high school—

*Create a fully integrated, sustainable system that promotes digital literacy across the Richmond Region K-12 educational spectrum*

# codeRVA

/kōdRVA/

*noun*

1. An expansion of partnership to non-profits, faith-based, youth-serving agencies, a Movement.
2. Innovative High School sparked by a unique partnership between regional school divisions and industry
3. Unprecedented collaboration between LEAs, community colleges, universities, and technology sector
4. Accelerated and Egalitarian completion of high school with paid work experience and college credits
5. Provide enrichment opportunities for under-served youth

1,655 Advanced Placement CS exams in Virginia;  
16 taken by African American Girls



# What will be innovative about CodeRVA?

Students will complete all high school credits during their 9th and 10th grade year

All courses will be personalized/blended learning experiences and/or full-time virtual learning

All courses will be built on integration of subject matter and pedagogy will be project-based (i.e. reading Julius Caesar while studying Ancient Rome, architecture, sculpture, etc.)

All courses will be integrated with a Computer Science component and the school will be 1:1 with technology

**would could this look like?**

*/kōdRVA/*



# What about grades 11/12?



Students will still remain at the high school; however, they will work for a company in Richmond called MaxxPotential

Maxx has formed partnerships with local businesses to incurse work – i.e. they will pay students to complete “low level” computer science/coding jobs typically outsourced overseas

Students can be “promoted” while working for Maxx like the real job world and can graduate high school making as much as \$25 per hour – will have focus on all areas of computer science – CyberSecurity, Software Engineering, etc.

While working for Maxx, JSRCC and JTCC have agreed to offer the entire 2-year degree program to our students online

All students will graduate with a two-year degree and extensive workforce experience, thus, College and Career Ready



# How will students be chosen?

Lottery – we want to prove that any student, no matter their background, can be successful in this school.

We are studying lottery-based programs in San Diego and NYC.

# How much will this cost?

We want to prove that an innovative model such as this, with waivers from certain requirements and unfunded mandates can be done more efficiently.

We plan to fund this school at \$7,000 per student total

With 82 students in the first year and \$26,000 in VPSA technology funding, the first year budget will be \$600,000

We hope to grow the school to 800 students over the next 8 years

# State support of this school...

**Funding** – must invest in innovation

**Time** – innovation will take more than one year to truly plan and implement

# Thinking beyond verified & standard credits...

Eliminating verified and standard “carnegie credits” for graduation and considering alternative ways to show student mastery

- ★ Student mastery of competencies will be the focus and learning will be verified through project-based and work experiences.
- ★ Alternate assessments will be used to show mastery in lieu of SOL tests and “carnegie courses - AP tests and Dual Enrollment Courses prove mastery as well? If a student earns a 2-year degree from a local community college, is that not enough to show that they have the skills necessary to graduate high school?
- ★ Integrated courses teaching multiple subjects make the credit discussion vastly different – standards-based reporting seems more appropriate than a credit, if necessary at all – students may earn 4 traditional carnegie credits in one course now
- ★ Computer science will be embedded into every course
- ★ Waive elective requirements currently in the graduation plans, these students will focus on a workforce skill instead – this is a magnet school with a specialized program

# Waiving Administrative Requirements

Waive all reporting requirements until the school is at full capacity to allow time to build innovation and prevent the need for the hiring of multiple administrators to manage bureaucracy

Waive all testing requirements until the school is at full capacity – however, replace those SOL tests with nationally normed tests, like the SAT, AP, and IB exams to show accountability



# Waiving Operational Requirements

Students will be provided transportation on the current MLWGS bus

Students will attend a school together; however, it may look more like a business than a school building

Students will have the flexibility to have a lunch break on their own like any business

# Waiving Class Size & Seat Time

In this new project-based, integrated-course model, the teacher is a facilitator of learning

*Class size requirements should be eliminated completely to allow maximum flexibility in grouping students for project-based instruction*

Seat time or course hours are completely irrelevant in the integrated course model

# Waivers for Teachers

Waiver of all teaching certifications

Teachers in this model may need to teach across a broad range of courses and it will be impossible to certify a teacher, for instance, in English, History, Music, and Art to create a humanities course

To hire four teachers when one would suffice is not great stewardship of taxpayer resources

Waive planning period and certain teacher contract requirements to give us time to assess what is really needed in this new model

# Re-thinking Calendar Requirements

This school may operate on a trimester vs. semester calendar.

Labor day requirements, etc., make this impossible.

Student flexibility is necessary for the 990 hour requirement annually as well.

Online courses may be completed in a range from a few days to several months when learning is truly personalized

Students may choose to only attend two trimesters, thus 990 hours or 180 days are arbitrary



# Governance

Regional School Board

Tuition-based funding structure

# Grant Progress

Symposium Held – Nearly 100 attendees

Director Hired

Preliminary budget for implementation

Seeking additional funding to support operations

Seeking facility location

Advisory Committees Formed – business, community college, university, Pk-12, non-profit all helping plan



# In progress...

Determining a Location

Developing Integrated Curriculum

Apply for VDOE Waivers

Marketing Opportunity to Students and Parents

Selecting Students

Begin Hiring Staff

Provide Professional Development for Staff

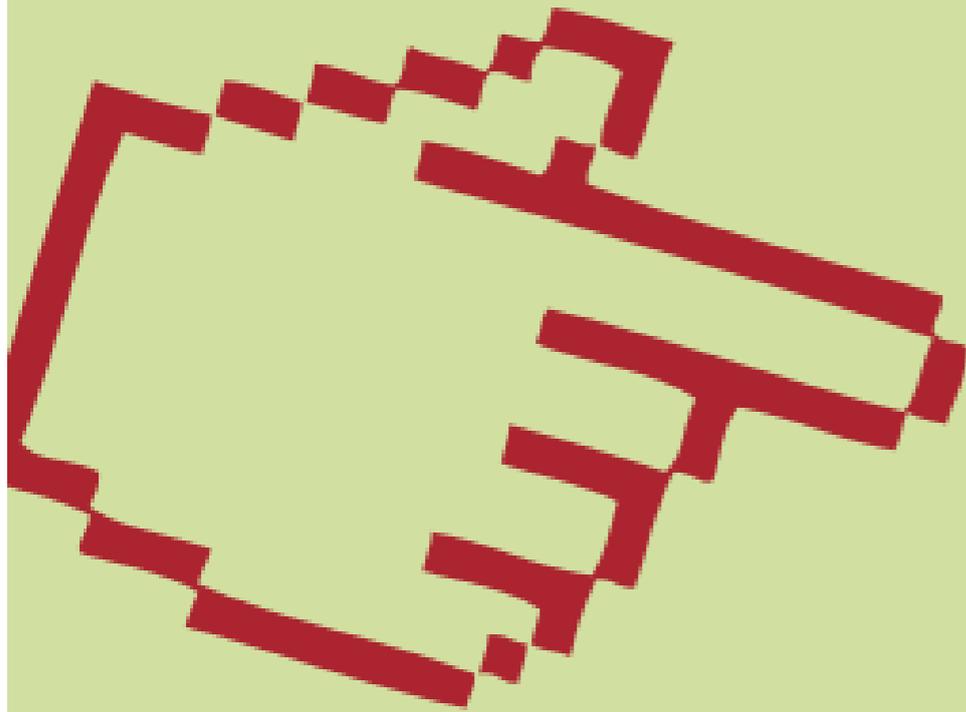
Establish Regional School Board

Establish 501(c)3 Foundation for Financial Support

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
and  
CODE RVA  
*present*

## ***First Annual Innovative High Schools Virtual Symposium***

This Region 1 Symposium is part of the High School Innovation Planning Grant Awarded by VDOE and Announced by Governor McAuliffe in June



**High Tech High** - Michael Klein

**New Classroom** - Lizz Pawlson

**RePublic High School** - Michael Burgevin

**New Tech Network** - Paul Buck

**The Academy for Software Engineering** -

LeAnn DeLyser

October 15, 2015

2-5 PM

RSVP to [ywobrandon.coderva@gmail.com](mailto:ywobrandon.coderva@gmail.com) by 10/12

WebEx Meeting Online 627 397 470

Meeting Password: Code1\*

Audio Connection +1 855-749-4750 Toll Free

YOU ARE INVITED

**Thank you.**

Once we have  
proof of  
concept, we  
hope to  
replicate this  
model across  
all career  
pathways