

Virginia Board of Education Agenda Item



Agenda Item: G

Date: May 23, 2013

Title	First Review Proposal to Establish the Gloucester County Public Schools and Mathews County Public Schools Governor's Health Sciences Academy		
Presenter	Ms. Lolita B. Hall, Director, Office of Career and Technical Education Services Dr. Paul D. McLean, Supervisor, Career and Technical Education, Gloucester County Public Schools		
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Purpose of Presentation:

Other initiative or requirement. Specify below:

First review of a Proposal to Establish the Gloucester County Public Schools and the Mathews County Public Schools Governor's Health Sciences Academy

Previous Review or Action:

No previous review or action.

Action Requested:

Action will be requested at a future meeting. Specify anticipated date below:

Date: June 27, 2013

Alignment with Board of Education Goals: Please indicate (X) all that apply:

X	Goal 1: Accountability for Student Learning
	Goal 2: Rigorous Standards to Promote College and Career Readiness
X	Goal 3: Expanded Opportunities to Learn
	Goal 4: Nurturing Young Learners
	Goal 5: Highly Qualified and Effective Educators
	Goal 6: Sound Policies for Student Success
	Goal 7: Safe and Secure Schools
	Other Priority or Initiative. Specify:

Background Information and Statutory Authority:

Goal 1: The Academy must meet rigorous criteria established by the Board of Education under the Governor's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Academy Program. Students progress in academic and technical knowledge and skills; and their employability knowledge and skills are monitored and measured annually to ensure successful transition to college and career.

Goal 3: The Academy is designed to expand options for students' health science literacy and other critical knowledge, skills, and credentials that will prepare them for high-demand, high-wage and high-skill health sciences careers in Virginia.

On September 7, 2012, the Virginia Department of Education announced planning/implementation grants in the amount of \$10,000 each for establishment of Governor’s Health Sciences Academies in the eight superintendents’ regions. The Governor’s Health Sciences Academies shall consist of partnerships of one or more public school divisions or multiple schools within a school division, healthcare institutions, business and industry, and higher education institutions; and offer rigorous academic content with career and technical instruction. The Academy must include specialty programs within the five career pathways.

Health Sciences Career Cluster

Career Pathways	General Description
Therapeutic Services	Care and treat patients to improve their health over time. Counsel patients and provide them the tools needed to live a healthier and problem-free lifestyle.
Diagnostic Services	Use tests and evaluations to aid in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, injuries or other physical conditions.
Health Informatics	Manage health care agencies by overseeing all patient data, financial information and technological applications to health care processes and procedures.
Support Services	Assist health care professionals with a range of administrative and maintenance duties to ensure that the health care environment is maintained.
Biotechnology Research and Development	Discover new treatments and medical technologies to improve human health and advance the overall health science field.

At least two of the health sciences career pathways must be implemented initially. The remaining three pathways must be fully articulated and implemented within the next three years. Also, the Academy must agree to participate in the Governor’s Exemplary Standards Award Program.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) is currently reviewing the attached proposal. Their report and recommendation is expected by June 5 prior to final review of the proposal by the Board of Education (Attachment B). Staff members of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) have reviewed the proposal in the context of the established criteria. An executive summary of the proposal is in Attachment A. Attachment C is the report from the review by the VDOE. Attachment D is the complete proposal.

Summary of Important Issues:

This proposal for a Governor’s Health Sciences Academy consists of a joint effort between Gloucester County Public Schools and Mathews County Public Schools with partnerships among the Riverside School of Health Careers, Rappahannock Community College, and New Horizons Regional Education Centers. The Academy will be located on two campuses, Gloucester High School (GHS) and Mathews High School (MHS). Students will participate in Academy courses during the regular school day; however, the MHS students will participate in some classes offered at GHS. When fully implemented, the Academy will have the capacity to enroll 100 students, grades 9-12. Beginning in 2013-14, the Academy will offer the pathway plan of study for Support Services and Therapeutic Services and will accept applications for 40 students. By 2015-16, the Diagnostic Services, Health Informatics, and Biotechnology Research and Development pathways will be fully implemented.

Through strong partnerships with Riverside School of Health Careers and Riverside Walter Reed Hospital, students will participate in work-based learning experiences that will include supervised internships, job shadowing, and mentoring in a variety of health care fields. Preparation for career exploration and the process of choosing a career pathway will begin during middle school. The

Academy will target potential students through enriched exploratory activities. These activities may include, but not be limited to, career and skill assessments, Gloucester County Public Schools (GCPS)/MHS Riverside Medical Careers Explorers Post, Academy orientations, and open house programs. The GCPS/MHS Riverside Medical Careers Explorers Post program will help bridge the gap between education and application. Students in the program will meet monthly at the hospital for a business meeting. During a portion of the meeting, students will observe and participate in activities with the therapy department (physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy). Shadowing opportunities for advanced Academy students are being planned to develop a mentorship with healthcare professionals at the Riverside Walter Reed facility in Gloucester. For more details refer to Appendix B.

Each of the five health sciences pathways are articulated with a postsecondary institution which will provide students an opportunity to earn a minimum of nine dual-enrollment credits. A goal of the Academy is to have at least 50 percent of its students earning dual-enrollment credit by 2014-15.

Projected job growth between 2010 and 2018 will be more than 6,700 new health care positions opening up on the Greater Peninsula, an estimated growth of 30.24 percent (Peninsula Council for Workforce Development, 2012). Health care and social assistance occupations are a large portion of the total work force on the Greater Peninsula. According to the Virginia Employment Commission, 2nd quarter 2011 data, these positions represent 9-, 10-, and 12 percent of the total work force in Williamsburg/James City County, Hampton, and Newport News, respectively. The highest expected entry-level growth occupations on the Greater Peninsula are in Therapeutic and Support Services which includes occupations such as physical therapy assistants, physical therapy aides, personal care aides, home health aides, and medical assistants. The demand for these positions is expected to increase between 36 to 60 percent over the next six years. New jobs for registered nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and optometrists will also be in high demand. The Governor's Health Sciences Academy will help to bridge training and preparation for students to gain access to career pathways that prepare them for high-demand, high-skill, and high-wage careers.

Impact on Fiscal and Human Resources:

Funding for implementation must be provided at the local level.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

The proposed beginning date for the Gloucester County Public Schools and the Mathews County Public Schools Governor's Health Sciences Academy, is school year 2013-14.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education accept for first review the proposal to establish the Gloucester County Public Schools and the Mathews County Public Schools Governor's Health Sciences Academy.