



**VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
CHARTING THE COURSE

November 4, 2024

The Honorable Louise Lucas, Chairwoman  
Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Virginia General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Luke E. Torian, Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
201 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Virginia General Assembly Building  
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Senator Lucas and Delegate Torian:

Virginia Beach City Public Schools respectfully submits its first progress report to establish a recovery high school in Superintendent's Region 2 as required in Item 124 of the 2024 – 2026 Biennial Budget.

A regional steering committee, comprised of representatives of the five school divisions with closest proximity to Virginia Beach City Public Schools, has completed much of the initial planning and anticipates the recovery school will begin serving students beginning in the 2025 – 2026 academic year. The attached report reflects the progress of the steering committee.

If you have any further questions or need any additional information, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Attachment: Progress Report – November 2024

# PROGRESS REPORT

November 2024

Virginia Beach City Public Schools



- Agreed on the school's name, *Harbor Hope Center*.
- Secured a central site at Chesapeake's Educational Services Center.
- Developed a rationale and compiled supporting research.
- Defined the program's purpose, mission, and description.
- Developed goals and objectives aligned with each division's strategic plan.
- Determined a staffing model.
- Developed the academic and clinical approaches.
- Determined operational hours and a transportation plan.
- Collaborated with the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (VOAA) and state agencies on grant opportunities.
- Visited and collaborated with Region 1 Chesterfield Recovery School.
- Catalogued community and local and state agency support.
- Developed an enrollment and application framework.
- Outlined a recruitment and marketing plan.
- Developed preliminary program costs.
- Developed a shared funding formula.
- Created a mandatory drug testing policy statement.
- Created a tentative daily schedule.
- Coordinated with Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health (CIBH) for staffing and oversight of clinical staff.
- Reviewed potential code and policy waivers which may be required.
- Secured an informal agreement for a multi-year local city allocated VOAA Direct Funding from five participating Region 2 divisions.
- Began a Coordinated Partnership Grant Application through VOAA Application Portal.
- Met with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to solicit additional funding opportunities.

The Region 2 Recovery School Steering Committee will present for a vote in January to the school boards of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach a program proposal for a regional recovery school to open in August 2025. Planning for this board presentation will continue, and given approval, the steering committee will prepare for an August opening.