



PROGRESS REPORT • NOVEMBER 2025

Nov. 26, 2025

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas

Chair, Senate Finance
and Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly
General Assembly Building, Room 1404
201 N. Ninth St., Richmond, VA 23219

The Honorable Luke E. Torian

Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Virginia General Assembly
General Assembly Building, Room 1223
201 N. Ninth St., Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Madam and Sir:

Chesterfield County Public Schools respectfully submits this progress report in connection to language tied to general fund appropriations:

"provided to Chesterfield County Public Schools to assist with establishing a recovery high school as a year-round school with enrollment open to any high school student residing in Superintendent's Region 1 who is in the early stages of recovery from substance use disorder or dependency. Students in the high school shall be provided academic, emotional, and social support needed to progress toward earning a high school diploma and reintegrating into a traditional high school setting. Chesterfield County Public Schools shall submit a report regarding the planning, implementation, and outcomes of the recovery high school to the Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee and Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee by December 1 each year."

This correspondence fulfills that reporting requirement. Please contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,



Dr. John T. Murray

Superintendent
Chesterfield County Public Schools



Justin Savoy

Program Coordinator
Chesterfield Recovery Academy

Overview

One step, one day, one success at a time: Chesterfield Recovery Academy is a year-round program serving high school students from central Virginia who are recovering from substance abuse disorders. The program opened in August 2022 as Virginia's first recovery high school.

Chesterfield Recovery Academy students receive the academic, emotional and social support necessary to complete their high school education. The program provides flexibility to allow students to participate in internships or hold a job while enrolled. This structured system of support and preparation for the future sets students on a path toward continued success.

During the 2024-25 school year, Chesterfield Recovery Academy solidified its role as a pioneer in adolescent recovery education for the commonwealth. In its fourth year of operation, the program has met significant goals set by administration and aims to be the vehicle of change for adolescents in Virginia public schools.





Key achievements in 2024-25 include:

Serving as the state model: The Association of Recovery Schools selected Chesterfield Recovery Academy to provide technical assistance and guidance to new Virginia recovery schools, helping replicate its successful academic and clinical model.

Leading statewide collaboration: The academy hosted the first-ever Virginia recovery schools kickoff, bringing together state agencies and community partners to build a unified recovery network.

Achieving student success: The program reached a milestone enrollment of 31 students and celebrated six high school graduates, bringing the total to 19 graduates since 2022.

Developing replicable clinical tools: The clinical team is developing a structured group counseling manual, intended for use by other recovery high schools.

Student impact and outcomes

Graduation and academic achievement are at the forefront of daily operations. The academic focus is dedicated to nurturing the inner learner of all students.

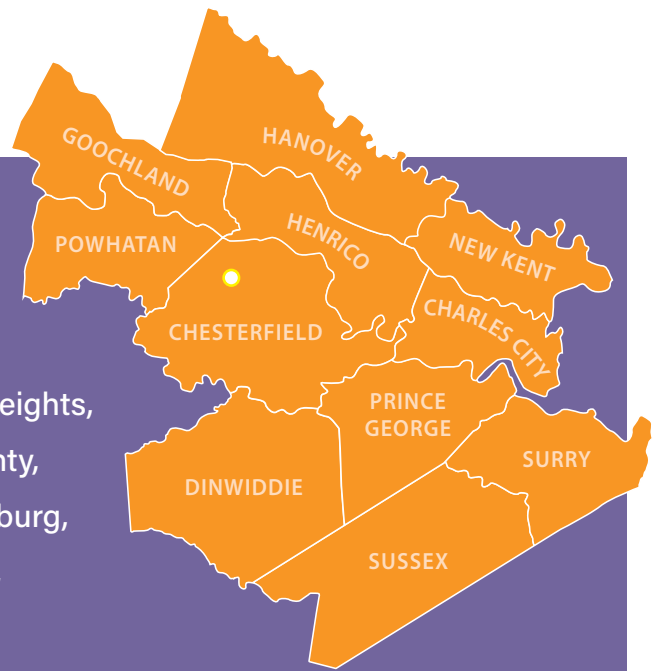
Academic achievement

Two students achieved a perfect 600 score on their Standards of Learning exams, demonstrating the success of the academy's individualized preparation model.

Region 1 localities

Chesterfield Recovery Academy is open to students in Region 1, which covers these 15 localities:

Charles City County, Chesterfield County, Colonial Heights, Dinwiddie County, Goochland County, Hanover County, Henrico County, Hopewell, New Kent County, Petersburg, Powhatan County, Prince George County, Richmond, Surry County and Sussex County.



Enrollment and graduation

- The 2024-25 school year began with 18 students from seven localities.
- Over the course of the year, Chesterfield Recovery Academy reached a milestone enrollment of 31 students with eight localities represented.
- The academy supported six seniors to high school graduation during the 2024-25 school year.
- Since 2022, the academy has served over 70 students and celebrated 19 high school graduates.

25%
Hispanic

55%
White

20%
Black

Student demographics

Note on demographics: Because 25% of the student population is Hispanic, the clinical team includes bilingual professionals to provide culturally competent care.

60%
Female

40%
Male

Virginia leadership and program replication

Over the past year, Chesterfield Recovery Academy demonstrated its ability to lead and build strong recovery networks across the commonwealth.

National conference presentation: In June 2025, Program Coordinator Justin Savoy presented at the national Association of Recovery in Higher Education/Association of Recovery Schools/Association of Alternative Peer Groups conference. His presentation focused on strategies for operation, community building and lessons learned from Chesterfield Recovery Academy's first three years.

Virginia recovery schools kickoff: In July, the academy conducted the first-ever Virginia recovery schools kickoff hosted by Brightpoint Community College. Academy staff shared operational best practices with new recovery schools, the Virginia Department of Education and the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

State-level technical assistance: The Association of Recovery Schools selected Program Coordinator Justin Savoy to provide technical assistance to Virginia's new recovery schools opening in fall 2025. So that these schools could build their models based on Chesterfield Recovery Academy's success, he provided guidance on school culture, academic and clinical operations, and student recruitment.



Academic program update

The academic team remains stable with three personnel: two licensed educators and one special education instructional assistant. This team provides individualized approaches for students, many of whom have complex dual diagnoses, in a safe, recovery-focused environment.

Curriculum: Students engage in a flexible, online curriculum leading to standard or advanced high school diplomas, supported by a strategic partnership with CCPSOnline.

Internal support: Chesterfield Recovery Academy enhanced its learning model by having an academy educator serve as the teacher of record for all English 9-12 courses, affording a more robust student-teacher relationship. Plans are underway to expand this model to algebra and history courses.

SOL preparation: High-quality SOL preparation is offered internally through individual and small-group direct instruction. This allows for more targeted and individualized test preparation and remediation than typical web-based resources.

Clinical program update

The clinical program is a leader in recovery-focused education, serving students from 15 localities. The mission is to support students using both harm reduction and abstinence-based recovery models, respecting each student's personal journey.

Core services: A key approach is daily, clinician-led group supportive counseling, which fosters peer connection and critical reflection.

Student-centered approach: The academic and clinical teams regularly adapt policies and curriculum — including group curriculum and drug policy — in direct response to student feedback.

Community partnerships: The school has forged strong partnerships with organizations like Rams in Recovery (collegiate recovery program) and Marti's Neighborhood (community mental health provider) to give students a broader network of recovery resources.



Funding

The Chesterfield Recovery Academy was initially funded through legislation approved in June 2022 by the Virginia General Assembly and governor. Local funding now accounts for a third of the recovery academy's budget. In addition to support from Chesterfield County Public Schools, the program receives assistance from health agencies, local and state government programs and police and legal agencies to help students navigate through recovery.

FY 2024-25

state funding: \$500,000

local funding: \$243,676

total budget: \$743,676



Conclusion

Chesterfield Recovery Academy continues to pioneer the path of recovery for adolescents in Virginia's public schools. Through a comprehensive and student-centered approach, Chesterfield Recovery Academy provides a model for how recovery high schools can combine clinical support, educational excellence and community integration to foster both academic achievement and personal transformation.



Justin Savoy, Program Coordinator

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