



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

December 1, 2025

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

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

Dear Senator Lucas and Delegate Torian:

As the Program Coordinator of the Harbor Hope Center, I am respectfully submitting the second progress report on behalf of Dr. Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Superintendent of Virginia Beach City Public Schools. This progress report provides an update for the recovery high school in Superintendent's Region 2 as required in Item 124 of the 2024 – 2026 Biennial Budget.

We are grateful for the funding that has allowed us to successfully open our doors to students on September 2, 2025. We are currently serving students from divisions of Virginia Beach, Norfolk, and Chesapeake. The attached report reflects our progress to date.

If you have any further questions or need any additional information, please contact me at Bruce.Clarke@VBschools.com or call me at (757)233-0177.

Respectfully,

Bruce Clarke
Coordinator, Harbor Hope Center Region II Recovery School
Virginia Beach City Public Schools
Bruce.Clarke@VBschools.com

Attachment: Progress Report

CC: Dr. Donald E. Robertson, Jr.
Superintendent Virginia Beach City Public Schools

CC: Robert B. Jamison
Executive Director of Student Support Services
Virginia Beach City Public Schools



Harbor Hope Center (HHC) opened its doors to students on September 2, 2025, with three students enrolled, each representing the Region 2 school divisions of Chesapeake, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach. The following strategic actions led to the inaugural opening and continued operation of HHC:

- Received formal Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) Resolution of Support to establish HHC Region 2 Recovery School
- Created and executed multiple legal agreements necessary to operate a regional school:
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the five participating Region 2 school divisions to operate HHC
 - Memorandum of Understanding between Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health and HHC
 - Memorandum of Understanding with cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk, and Virginia Beach, for a combined total four-city contribution of \$880,000 in Opioid Abatement Direct Settlement Funds to provide both operating and grant match funds
 - Memorandum of Understanding and Bylaws for the HHC Governing Board and Committee of Superintendents
- Awarded a Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (VOAA) Cooperative Partnership Grant totaling approximately \$1.5 million over five years
- Held the inaugural Committee of Superintendents and Joint Regional Governing Board meetings and scheduled subsequent meetings for the remainder of the year.
- Onboarded in July a program coordinator selected by the regional superintendents and approved by the Joint Regional Governing Board
- Moved in July into HHC facility at 369 S. Battlefield Blvd. Chesapeake, VA
- Collaborated with and conducted site visits of Chesterfield Recovery Academy in Midlothian, VA
- Developed and implemented a marketing plan through coordinated efforts with public affairs officers from the five participating regional school divisions
- Secured a domain name and developed a website: www.HHCTidewater.com

- Participated monthly in Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Office of Behavioral Health's Community of Practice (CoP) with state's three other recovery schools and also participated in Association of Recovery Schools (ARS) webinar sessions
- Began student intake meetings in August
- Staffed an Academic Facilitator, Office Associate, Clinician, and Peer Recovery Specialist
- Delivered daily group therapy and weekly individual therapy with clinical staff and students
- Initiated student drug testing, a keystone of the Association of Recovery Schools guidelines and established harm reduction baselines
- Forged relationships with area providers and organizations
- Implemented a recovery curriculum titled *The Change Companies KIDS (Keep It Direct and Simple)*
- Conducted site visits from Region 2 Division School Board Members

HHC continues to focus on growing student enrollment and meeting the recovery needs of the students in Region 2 schools. To date, enrollment is three. The staff of HHC and the supporting Governing Board and Committee of Superintendents are confident as we grow and learn that a thriving Region 2 recovery school will continue to emerge.