

**Applicant** CodeRVA Regional High School  
**PR Award #** U165A170029

**School District** Inter-District  
**City, State** Richmond, Virginia  
**Urbanicity** Metropolitan

**Project Title/Name** CodeRVA Regional High School Magnet Application

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**Grant Award Amount** **Total: \$ 5,992,078.00** over 4 years

- Year 1 \$ 1,177,313.00
- Year 2 \$ 1,889,447.00
- Year 3 \$ 1,698,342.00
- Year 4 \$ 1,226,976.00

School and Grades Served	Theme	Isolated and Targeted Minority/ies	Number of Students
CodeRVA Regional High School (9-12)	Computer Science	African Americans	56,137

**Project Description:**

Twelve independent school divisions in central Virginia have come together with industry and higher education partners to submit this application for a Magnet Schools Assistance Program grant. The proposed CodeRVA Regional High School will be the only inter-district magnet school in Virginia with an explicit emphasis on promoting access, equity, and diversity, coupled with preparation for the high-demand, high-wage career field of computer science.

Operating as a year-round school, expanded learning time over the calendar year will allow students to accelerate or extend the time needed for individualized mastery of content and progression within the four-year structure. During the first two years, online and blended coursework and competency-based progression will speed completion of high school requirements. Computer science learning will be integrated into all curricular content, with the application of computational thinking as an integral component of relevant, student-designed projects that build complex problem solving skills and creative thinking. Project portfolios and

performance-based assessments will hold students to high standards and document mastery of rigorous content.

In years three and four, partnerships with community colleges will give students access to dual enrollment coursework leading to an associate's degree. Area employers have committed to offering paid part-time employment that further develops students' digital knowledge and skills. The intent is that CodeRVA students will emerge at the end of four years with a high school diploma, an associate's degree, industry certification(s), and potentially, as much as 400 hours of paid work experience.

Recognizing the need to prepare all learners for 21st century employment and citizenship, the region's history of segregation and resulting minority isolation in the area's schools, as well as the low percentage of females in STEM careers, CodeRVA will utilize proactive recruitment and support strategies for underrepresented minority and female students. A carefully weighted, lottery-based selection process will require only interest on the part of potential students, thus addressing issues of equity across the region as well as a lack of diversity in the technology workforce. The new magnet school will open in September 2017 to 91 ninth and tenth grade students, adding 100 students per year until reaching its proposed maximum capacity of 400. A technology-rich environment, active learning classrooms, project-based learning, and flexible spaces will facilitate cooperative learning that crosses cultural boundaries and builds long-term relationships between students.

### **Project Goals**

1. Address racial, economic, and gender inequities in STEM-related education.
2. Redesign the high school experience to better meet the needs of today's students.
3. Increase the pool of potential employees in computer science for central Virginia.