

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Harford County Public Schools Announces New County Support to Expand Youth Workforce Investment Program

County Government Contributes \$65,000 to Provide Additional Seats for HCPS Students in Career Credentialing Program

Harford County Public Schools (HCPS) is proud to announce new support from Harford County Government for the Harford Youth Workforce Investment Program (HYWIP)—a unique partnership between HCPS, Harford Community College (HCC), and the Susquehanna Workforce Network (SWN). The County's investment of \$65,000 will allow 20 to 35 additional HCPS students to participate in this valuable career exploration and credentialing opportunity during the 2025-2026 school year.

Housed at Harford Community College, the Harford Youth Workforce Investment Program provides HCPS high school students with access to hands-on training, career readiness experiences, and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials in high-demand fields. The program is made possible through a strategic partnership between HCPS, HCC, and SWN, aligning workforce development with public education to support student success.

The initiative first launched during the 2021-2022 school year with funding from Maryland Leads. Last year, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered through SWN and Blueprint for Maryland's Future ensured the program continued. Because Blueprint dollars must be used in coordination with workforce partners like SWN and HCC, this collaboration is vital to sustaining and growing the program.

What's new this year is Harford County Government's \$65,000 contribution—an investment made outside the school system's annual operating budget. This support reflects the County's growing commitment to education and workforce readiness and will directly increase student access to the program.

"We are grateful for the County's generous support of the Harford Youth Workforce Investment Program," said HCPS Superintendent Dr. Sean Bulson. "This new funding recognizes the importance of helping students prepare for the workforce and opens doors for even more students to explore career pathways and earn meaningful credentials."

Dr. Aaron Poynton, President of the Board of Education of Harford County, added, "This is a smart investment in our students and our community. By supporting the Youth Workforce Investment Program, the County Executive is not only helping students build future-ready skills but also strengthening the local talent pipeline for years to come. We appreciate their leadership and commitment to expanding opportunities for our youth."

The Harford Youth Workforce Investment Program represents the best of what's possible when public education, higher education, workforce development, and local government work together. Harford County Government's new contribution will have an immediate and measurable impact, allowing more students to pursue futures in healthcare, construction, IT, manufacturing, and other essential industries.

HCPS looks forward to continuing this strong partnership with HCC, SWN, and now Harford County Government as we work together to prepare students for life after graduation.

To learn more about the program, visit:

<https://www.hcps.org/departments/curriculum/careertechnology/HarfordWorkforceInvestment.aspx>

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