



Media Alert

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCPS Awarded Grant to Expand IT Apprenticeships

The Maryland State Department of Education's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Perkins Reserve Grant Program awarded Harford County Public Schools \$117,769 for Fiscal Year 2026. This competitive grant is designated for the expansion of registered apprenticeship opportunities in the Cybersecurity and Information Technology sector, one of Maryland's designated "lighthouse sectors" for economic growth and high-demand careers.

"Grants such as this help us ensure our students are prepared for successful careers," said Dr. Sean Bulson, Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools. "This funding allows us to continue connecting students directly with the skills and experiences that will make them competitive in Maryland's growing workforce."

With this grant money, HCPS can strengthen and expand its successful partnership with Defense Interns, a key industry partner providing students with meaningful, career-connected learning experiences. Through this partnership, students gain access to registered apprenticeship programs that combine rigorous classroom instruction with hands-on workplace experience in Information Technology.

"This grant represents a significant investment in our students' futures and our community's workforce needs," said Joe Connolly, Supervisor of CTE and Magnet Programs. "By expanding access to Registered Apprenticeships in Information Technology, we're providing our students with direct pathways to high-skill, high-wage careers while addressing critical workforce demands in Maryland's cybersecurity and IT sectors."

The HCPS Apprenticeship Maryland Program provides students with the opportunity to earn and learn while in high school. Through partnerships with local employers, students work under the professional guidance of experienced mentors, while also earning a salary and up to four high school credits, all while gaining invaluable industry experience.

For more information on the HCPS Apprenticeship Maryland Program, visit www.hcps.org/departments/curriculum/careertechnology/Apprenticeship.aspx

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