

The "Community Hub" Initiative – Enhancing Family and Community Engagement Across Hampton Roads

The purpose of the CISofHR "Community Hub" initiative is to increase effective family and community engagement efforts within schools across Hampton Roads by leveraging school resources and community partnerships. The ultimate goal of the CISofHR Community Hub initiative is to help position schools as resource hubs for students and families within their community. We will offer quarterly Tier 1 supports (school-wide) in the areas of college exploration, workforce readiness, and mental health supports.



by Dr. JT Taylor

Framework for Community Hub – 3 Pillars

The Community Hub initiative is built around a comprehensive framework that positions schools as central resource centers for students and families.

Our approach focuses on three key areas of support:

- **College Exploration Expo**
- **Workforce Readiness Expo**
- **Mental Health Resource Expo**

Through these three pillars, we aim to create a holistic support system that addresses the academic, professional, and emotional needs of students and their families throughout Hampton Roads.

#1 College Exploration Expo

"The Bridge to a Brighter Future"



Focus

Combine K-12 academic skills and college exploration to help students and families better prepare for post-secondary education.



Goal

Introduce students and families to various college pathways that may interest students.



Objectives

Three key objectives to guide our college exploration efforts.

The College Exploration Expo serves as a bridge connecting K-12 education to higher education opportunities. By providing comprehensive information about college pathways, we help students and families make informed decisions about their academic futures.



College Exploration Expo Objectives



1 Expose students and families to a variety of degree programs and college majors

Through interactive sessions, college representative panels, and informational materials, we will help students discover the wide range of academic paths available to them.

2 Help families understand financial aid, college tuition, and other factors related to funding post-secondary endeavors

We will provide workshops on FAFSA completion, scholarship opportunities, and financial planning to make college more accessible.

3 Assist families in the process of creating a post-secondary education plan - "The Bridge Plan"

Using our structured approach, we'll guide families through the steps of developing a comprehensive college preparation strategy.

These objectives form the foundation of our college exploration program, ensuring that students and families have the knowledge and tools they need to navigate the path to higher education.

The Bridge Planning Template

Determine (3) degree options of interest to students

Students will explore and identify three potential degree programs that align with their interests, skills, and career aspirations.

Identify (5) colleges/universities of interest to students

Based on degree options, students will research and select five institutions that offer their programs of interest.

Research tuition costs

Students and families will investigate and compare the financial requirements of their selected institutions.

Decide college savings strategy

Families will develop a financial plan to support their student's educational goals.

Student commitment

Students will reflect on and document what they are willing to do to fulfill their goal to attend the college of their choice.

Monthly pre-scheduled, parent-led conversations with the child

Ongoing family discussions to monitor progress and adjust plans as needed.

#2 Workforce Readiness Expo

"Success Requires Skills"

Focus

Leverage community partners from local cities who are involved in a variety of industries (i.e., CTE education, banking, social services, hospitality, food services, fashion, etc.) to help students develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes that enhance their abilities to succeed in the real world.

Our partnerships span across multiple sectors, ensuring students gain exposure to diverse career paths and the specific skills required in each field.

Goal

Help students and families connect K-12 skills to practical, real-world applications.

By demonstrating how classroom learning translates to workplace success, we bridge the gap between education and employment, making learning more relevant and engaging for students.



Workforce Readiness Expo Objectives



Research top career clusters

Research top career clusters that are projected to be available in Hampton Roads within the next 5-10 years

We will analyze labor market trends and growth industries specific to our region to ensure our students are prepared for local opportunities.

Assess student interests

Create and administer a brief survey that assesses students' aspirations, dreams, and goals related to career clusters that are interesting to students across CISofHR schools.

This data will help us tailor our programming to match student interests with regional workforce needs.

Connect academics to industries

Help students make academic connections to various industries that our community partners work in.

Through industry-specific projects and examples, we'll demonstrate how classroom subjects apply to different career paths.

Support family career development

Provide supports to families who may need insight or direction pertaining to career growth or career changes. For example, resume building, communication, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, financial literacy, time management, and stress management.

Our resources extend beyond students to support the entire family's professional development.

#3 Mental Health Resource Expo

"Resiliency, Coping Skills, and Emotional Wellness"



The Mental Health Resource Expo focuses on leveraging community partners, social service agencies, and social-emotional strategies to equip students and families with resources to strengthen emotional intelligence, build resiliency, and improve coping skills that lead to mental and emotional wellness.

Our goal is to increase awareness of strategies, resources, and skills that enhance mental and emotional wellness, creating a supportive environment where mental health is prioritized and destigmatized.

Mental Health Resource Expo Objectives

Promote emotional wellness

Connect students and families with mental health resources.



Build resiliency

Education on stress management, mindfulness, and coping strategies.



Provide interactive learning

Panel discussions, interactive workshops, seminars, and resource fairs focused on various topics related to mental health, emotional regulation, and self-care.



Foster a supportive community

Normalize discussions around mental health.



Enhance access

Connect to local mental health professionals and support services.



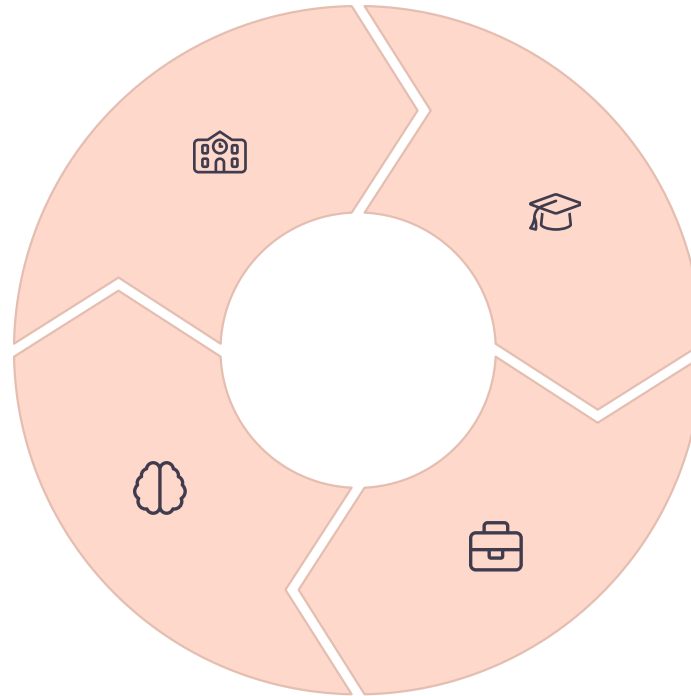
Community Hub Initiative Impact

Schools as Resource Centers

Positioning schools as central hubs for community resources and support

Mental Wellness

Supporting emotional health and resilience



College Readiness

Preparing students for post-secondary education success

Workforce Skills

Developing practical skills for career success

The CISofHR Community Hub initiative represents a comprehensive approach to supporting students and families across Hampton Roads. By focusing on college exploration, workforce readiness, and mental health, we address the whole student - their academic future, professional development, and emotional wellbeing.

Through quarterly Tier 1 supports and strong community partnerships, we're creating a network of resources that will help students thrive in school and beyond. Our initiative transforms schools into true community centers where families can access the tools, information, and support they need for success.