

# Richmond Regional School for Innovation

# CodeRVA

cracking the code to next-generation digital literacy for all kids



**The Commonwealth of Virginia  
Joint Commission on  
Technology & Science  
June 8, 2016**

# High School Innovation Planning Grants



- Supported by funds appropriated by the **General Assembly, Governor McAuliffe** announced that **Virginia DOE** would award **five planning grants** to
  - **redesign** the traditional high school
  - **build the workforce** of the 21st century
- The proposed high schools would be **considered for waivers** from certain regulations
- **Chesterfield** served as lead applicant in collaboration with 11 other central Virginia school divisions to submit a **regional application**

# Region One's Plan: *The Richmond Regional School for Innovation*



Create an innovative, hybrid high school

- Face to Face Instruction
- Virtual/Online Instruction



Offer Students personalized, accelerated learning

Accessible to **all** students

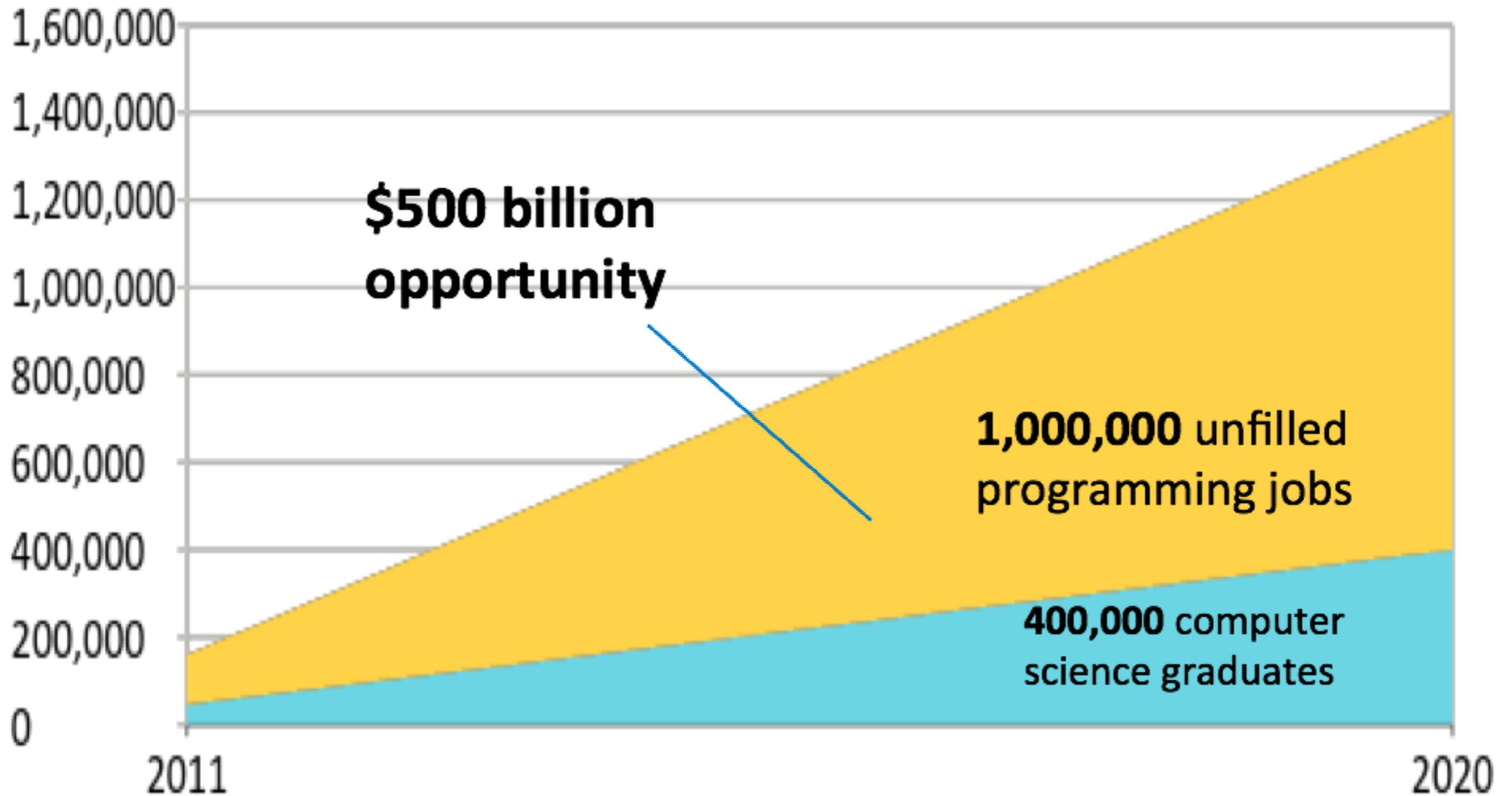


Address a critical gap in the regional workforce:  
computer science/coding

# Why Coding?



# 1M Unfilled Jobs by 2020



# Computer Science in Virginia

- **33,218 Unfilled Computing Jobs in 2014**
  - 4.1 times the average demand rate in Virginia
- **\$98,369 Average Salary Professional Computing Occupations**
  - State average salary: \$50,750
- **94 Virginia High Schools offer AP Computer Science**
- **2,069 VA students took AP Computer Science in 2014**
  - 434 (21%) were female
  - 105 were African American
  - 93 were Hispanic
  - 1655 CS Exams were taken – 16 by African American girls
- **1,292 VA Computer Science graduates in 2015**
  - 17% female



# Lead Partnerships—Input to Design & Operations



**14 Central Virginia School Districts**

**RichTech** (Richmond Technology Council)

150+ Richmond Region Industry Leaders

**CodeVA** Non-profit trains teachers to teach coding

**MAXX Potential** Internships for CodeRVA students

**Virginia Commonwealth University** Curriculum & Admissions

**University of Richmond** Curriculum & Admissions

**Reynolds Community College**

Curriculum & Dual Enrollment

**John Tyler Community College**

Curriculum & Dual Enrollment



# CodeRVA

## OVERALL CURRICULUM PLAN

Years

1/2

- Students complete high school graduation requirements
- Online learning, collaborative projects, face-to-face interactions with teachers and industry experts
- Year-round school: summer for catch-up & acceleration

Years

3/4

- Work toward an associate's degree from local community college
- Participate in paid internships through Maxx Potential to gain real-world experience in coding

# Post Graduation

- Four-year university
- Community College
- Workforce



**Code**RVVA

HIGH SCHOOL INNOVATION

# How is CodeRVA Different?

- 400 students from across the region
- Individualized learning
  - teacher as facilitator
  - learner-centered
- Mastery-based advancement
- Interdisciplinary Courses
  - American Studies = U.S. History + Literature
  - Biology + Health
- Project-based, Experiential Learning
  - 21st Century Skills:
    - Communication,
    - Collaboration,
    - Critical Thinking,
    - Creativity



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STATUS REPORT

## May 2016

- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) created for FY 17
- Financial Commitment from 11/14 Region 1 Districts for the 2016-17 Planning Year (\$15,000)
- Scope and Sequence Created for CodeRVA
- Still seeking permanent location FY18
- Curriculum Writing Has Begun
- Student Selection Process for FY17 is in progress
- Student Selection Process for FY18 is being created

# May 2016

- Budget completed for FY17 (\$15K/division)
- Budget estimated for FY18 (\$9K/student)
- Total number of students estimated in FY18 is 100
- Total Budget \$900K
- YR Planning Grant

# May 2016

- First Annual Innovative High School Virtual Symposium
- Phoenix Academy Visit
- Film Screening & Panel Discussion: *Most Likely to Succeed*
- Warrior Tech Visit - Henry County, VA

# Marketing & Recruiting

- Short Video for Students
- Website Developed
- Handouts & Flyers
- Community Presentations



[goo.gl/l1fXC8](http://goo.gl/l1fXC8)

[coderva.org](http://coderva.org)

# Innovation Barriers

- Time
- Funding
- Higher Ed/SCHEV/VCCCS Rules
- Innovation Learning Curve
  - Communicating a clear understanding of innovation to the business community and traditional educators
  - Belief that innovative programs are for talented students only

# In Progress

Determining a location

Developing an integrated curriculum

Applying for VDOE Waivers

Marketing Opportunity to Students & Parents

Selecting Students

Hiring Staff

Providing Professional Development for Staff

Establishing a Regional School Board

Establishing a 501(c) 3 Foundation for Financial Support

# CodeRVA

CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE  
SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE

# Desired Waivers

- Student mastery of competencies will be the focus and learning will be verified through project learning and work experiences
- Computer science will be embedded into every course with demonstrated competency mastery

# Rethinking Calendar Requirements

- The school may operate on a trimester vs. semester calendar
- Waive labor day requirements for a specialty school

**Thank you!**



[coderva.org](http://coderva.org)