

PILOT SUMMARY

As directed through the amended Code of Virginia § 22.1-211.1 in 2024, RCPS established and implemented the Community Builders Pilot Program in an effort to reduce youth involvement in behaviors that lead to gun violence and increase community engagement among public school students in our city.

Pilot Timeframe: Summer 2024 through Spring 2026

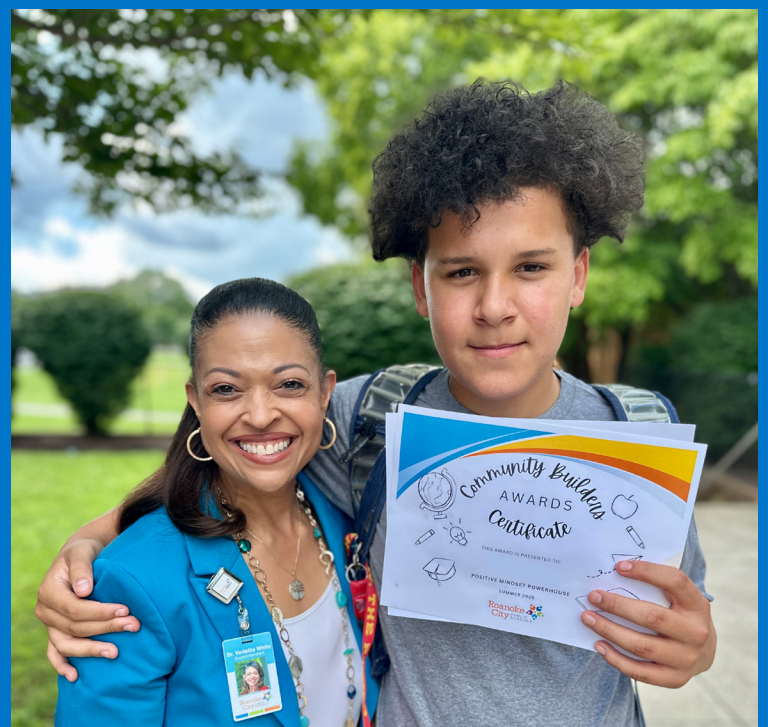
Funding Allocation for Two-Year Pilot: \$604,469.60

Uses of Funding:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| □ Staff/supplemental pay | □ Hands-on learning |
| □ Enrichment activities | □ Mental health support |
| □ Instructional materials | □ Individual student |
| □ Community events | supports |
| □ Mentoring | |

NEXT STEPS

The successful pilot program led to 2026 legislation designating RCPS as a demonstration site to continue programming and share the model with other Virginia school divisions.



TAKEAWAYS

The RCPS Community Builders Pilot Program was guided by a set of SMART goals that directed implementation and targeted key student outcomes, including reductions in chronic absenteeism, out-of-school suspensions, failing grades, and the reduction of juvenile gun violence. A July 1, 2026, final pilot report includes comprehensive data and information regarding the school division's experience with the pilot program, with the following serving as key takeaways for division leaders and policymakers at all levels:

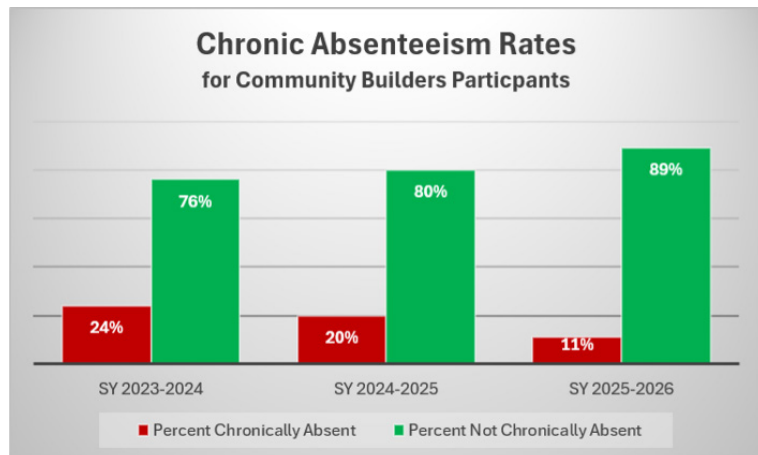
Signs of Positive Impact: Data available as of June 15, 2026, indicate improvements in the areas of chronic absenteeism, out-of-school suspensions, and academic performance, as well as a significant decrease in juvenile-involved gun violence.

VDOE Support for Implementation: Participation as a member of the Community Schools cohort, guided by the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Office of Behavioral Health and Student Safety, has been valuable to the RCPS team by providing a collaborative learning community that allows a safe place feedback and support.

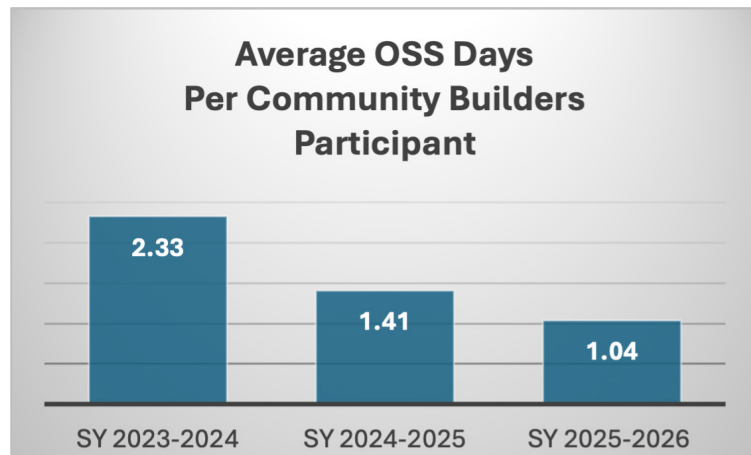
Commitment to the Process: Moving forward, from the conclusion of the pilot through the transition to serving as a Community Builders demonstration site for school divisions across the commonwealth, RCPS continues the process of planning, implementation, data collection, and reflection, adjusting as appropriate in an effort to meet the established goals.

Community Builders Pilot Data Highlights (2024-2026)

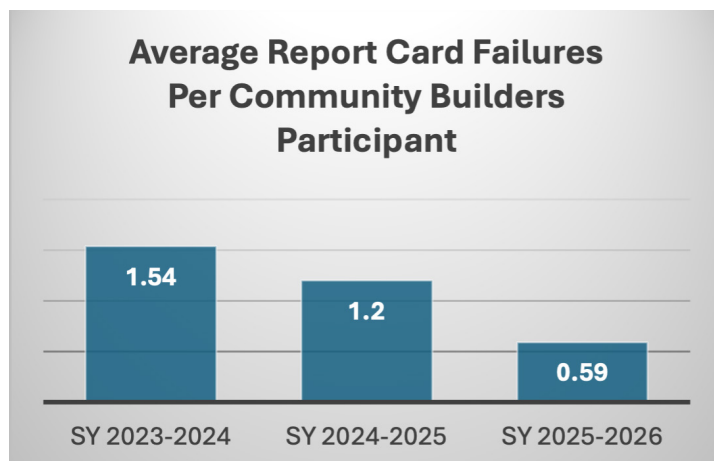
- ▷ Pilot data indicate positive trends in attendance, discipline, and academic performance data for the regular Community Builders participants.



54% reduction in participants identified as chronically absent.



55% reduction in total OSS days.



62% reduction in average number of failing grades.

- ▷ Juvenile-involved gun violence has also decreased since 2023-2024.

