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HCS Awarded Education and Workforce Innovation Grant

HALIFAX, NC - Halifax County Schools has been selected as one of 22 recipients statewide of the 2026–2027 Education and Workforce Innovation Grant. The funding will support the Jobs for North Carolina Graduates (JNCG) program at Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy.

JNCG helps students build employability skills, explore careers, connect with employers, and prepare for college, military service, or the workforce. The program also provides students with support for 12 months after graduation.

The program has already produced strong results. Northwest's JNCG program earned the JAG Award of Excellence for the fifth straight year and has achieved a 100% graduation rate for participating seniors for seven consecutive years. For the Class of 2025, the program also exceeded national JAG benchmarks in employment, full-time employment, positive outcomes, and postsecondary education or certification.

The grant supports Halifax County Schools' broader commitment to Career and Technical Education and workforce development, which currently serves 1,015 CTE enrollments and continues to build pathways connecting classroom learning with credentials, postsecondary education, work-based learning, and employment.

"We are excited to receive this grant because it means more opportunities for our students," said Dr. LaVonne McClain, Executive Director of Secondary Education and CTE. "Our goal is to ensure students leave Halifax County Schools with real skills, real experiences, and clear pathways to college, credentials, and careers."

Grant activities will include job shadowing, employer engagement, career exploration, postsecondary partnerships, credential opportunities, and workforce-readiness experiences aligned with regional career needs.

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