

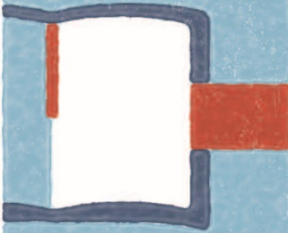
2020-2021

ANNUAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Newport News Public Schools

NEARLY
\$15.5 MILLION

IN VALUE TO
OUR 21 HRETA
MEMBERS



WHRO Annual Impact Statement

2020-2021

Newport News Public Schools

Regional Leadership

HRETA Educational Advisory Committee

Douglas Brown
Marvin Harris, Alternate

HRETA Superintendents Advisory Council

Dr. George Parker, III

HRETA Technology Advisory Committee

Chris Jenkins, Vice Chair
James Moreland

Consortium for Interactive Instruction

Billie Hart

Online Learning System Administrators

Daniel Barnhill

Please see the “Notes” section on page 21 for complete descriptions of these groups.

Educator Resources and Training

eMediaVASM (www.emediava.org)

eMediaVA is a service of WHRO and is supported by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and many other prominent national and Virginia-based educational content providers. It is a one-stop shop for high-quality digital content for Virginia's Pre-K through 12th grade teachers and students. Featuring the best purpose-built content from leading educational, cultural, and scientific organizations – such as PBS, Colonial Williamsburg, NASA, the Smithsonian Museums, the National Archives, Virginia's public media stations, Old Dominion University, the VDOE, Norfolk Public Library, NPR, the Science Museum of Virginia, the Valentine Richmond History Center, and many, many others – eMediaVA currently offers tens of thousands of digital learning resources, with more being added daily. All of these resources are correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning and available at no cost to every teacher and student across the Commonwealth. As of June 30, 2021, there were more than 270,000 user accounts (93,000 more than the previous year). Please see the “eMediaVA Digital Learning Resources Produced or Acquired by WHRO in 2020-2021” section starting on page 16 for a list of some of the content produced or acquired.

Regional Savings/Value: \$494,850.00

Newport News Savings/Value^A: \$45,100.00

eMediaVASM Trainings were conducted 39 times last year. Nearly 1,600 Virginia educators participated in these trainings, including more than 750 registrations from HRETA owner schools and 23 from [Newport News](#).

Regional Savings/Value: \$118,650.00

Newport News Savings/Value^B: \$3,450.00

“As a virtual teacher, I am learning all about the amazing digital content on the internet. It can be overwhelming at times, but eMediaVA does the hard sorting work for me! I am able to find leveled and appropriate videos for my students to engage in both as a whole group and independently that I know will (re)enforce the lessons and objectives. I love having the virtual field trips, the reading materials, and the plethora of videos all at the click of a button.”

eMediaVA also offers a number of division-wide connections designed to streamline access and account maintenance, including Single Sign-On options through Clever and ClassLink and Learning Tools Interoperability (LTI) integrations with Canvas. In total, 72 school divisions statewide, including 15 of the 21 HRETA divisions (Chesapeake, Franklin City, Gloucester, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Sussex, Virginia Beach, West Point, Williamsburg-James City County, and York) have established Single Sign-On with eMediaVA.

Special Topic Forums

Special Topic Forums are scheduled by request during the year to address timely educational technology topics. During 2020-2021, we conducted a Legislative Update Forum.

Regional Savings/Value: \$2,250.00

Newport News Savings/Value^C: \$0.00

WHRO Education Online Professional Development

Eleven WHRO Education Professional Development sessions were offered in 2020-2021, including:

- Distance Learning Tools: Flipgrid and Nearpod
- Jamestown-Yorktown Social Studies Teachers Workshop
- Instructional Use of Web Conferencing Tools
- Blended Learning in the Elementary Classroom
- Tools for Blended Learning in the Elementary Classroom

- Blended Learning in the Secondary Classroom
- Tools for Blended Learning in the Secondary Classroom Part 1
- Tools for Blended Learning in the Secondary Classroom Part 2
- Social Emotional Learning: Creating Connections and Building Resilience
- Social Emotional Learning: Connecting Digitally with Students
- Using Digital Media to Enhance Learning Goals and Engagement

Nearly 1,800 educators from across the Commonwealth participated in these events, including more than 1,500 teachers from HRETA owner schools and [134 Newport News](#) teachers.

Regional Savings/Value: \$236,850.00

Newport News Savings/Value^D: \$20,100.00

Workforce Development

Workforce Development includes **SkillsOnline**[™] (www.skillsonline.org), an affordable, digitally accessible career certification and training solution that offers thousands of self-paced and instructor-led online courses in 12 industry sectors, including Teacher Professional Development, Arts and Design, Business, Computer Applications, Computer Science, Construction and Trades, Health and Fitness, Hospitality, Information Technology, World Languages, Legal, and Writing. Five **Workplace Readiness Modules** developed by WHRO are available to all HRETA school divisions free-of-charge. There is also a GED preparation program called **Fast Forward**. HRETA schools enjoy a 10% discount on all SkillsOnline course registrations. Currently, we do not track registration or usage associated with these services to determine division-specific savings.

Student Services

WHRO Education Online Courses

WHRO Education Online Courses are developed by our Digital Learning team. Our online courses utilize 21st century technologies and are modular, textbook-independent, media-rich, engaging, and interactive. All courses are aligned with the Virginia Standards of Learning for specific subjects and are designed to be facilitated by an instructor. Additionally, the online content employs accessibility standards to accommodate individual learning styles and needs. WHRO strives to provide students a rich, cognitively challenging online learning experience, applying diverse content delivery methods. These courses provide authentic experiences, incorporate the 5 C's, allow for self-assessment and reflection, and encourage students to deeply explore subject matter. Lessons are designed to provide students opportunities to receive instant feedback that is corrective in nature and allows for individual review prior to being assessed. The Digital Learning team is committed to providing digital content that includes principles of inclusion, equity, justice, and diversity. All course content is created and reviewed by experts from across the region. Upon completion, the courses are made available to participating school divisions to further customize and use as they see fit.

Since 2007, the following courses have been developed:

- Algebra I
- Algebra II/Trigonometry
- Astronomy
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Digital Citizenship
- Earth Science
- Economics and Personal Finance
- English 9
- English 10
- English 11
- English 12
- French I
- Geometry
- Health and PE 9
- Health and PE 10
- Math Analysis
- Middle School Career Investigations
- Oceanography
- Online Teaching Methodology
- Physics
- Psychology
- VA and US History
- VA and US Government
- World Geography
- World History and Geography to 1500 A.D. (C.E.)
- World History and Geography: 1500 A.D. (C.E.) to the Present

Finally, during 2020-2021, WHRO staff coordinated three regional Learning Management System (LMS) Administrator meetings, delivered more than 60 hours of personalized technical support to eight HRETA divisions, and delivered customized training to one HRETA division.

Regional Savings/Value: \$3,309,000.00

Newport News Savings/Value^F: \$157,500.00

WHRO also coordinates an annual group purchase of an LMS used by schools to deliver online student courses.

Regional Savings/Value: \$15,415.00

Newport News Savings/Value^F: \$7,025.00

African American History

On August 24, 2019, Governor Northam directed the VDOE to collaborate with Virtual Virginia, WHRO Public Media, and committees of history teachers, historians, and history professors to develop a new African American History (AAH) course for high school students.

Online Modules

The full-credit course surveys African American history from pre-colonial Africa through the present. As part of this project, WHRO designed five AAH online modules that are part of the blended learning course. The AAH online modules highlight African American voices, including many not traditionally highlighted, and their contributions to the story of Virginia and the United States of America. Throughout each module, students access comprehensive and media-rich lessons, engaging interactivities, varied assignments, and real-world assessments. The VDOE-created course map integrates both the online modules and offline learning activities. Students examine the role African Americans have played in American history and trace the trials, tribulations, and triumphs of race relations in the United States.

In addition to the five online modules, WHRO's Digital Learning team created an AAH Teacher Hub course for the teachers across the Commonwealth teaching this course in the pilot program during the 2020-2021 school year, as well as an AAH Distribution Course for the VDOE to make the online modules available to every school division in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Digital Learning team delivered the online modules to the VDOE in three different learning management systems: Brightspace, Canvas, and Schoology. The following events were developed to support this special project during 2020-2021:

- AAH Pilot Teacher Orientation
- AAH Online Modules Demonstration
- AAH Online Modules Overview for History and Social Science Directors
- AAH Pilot Teacher Celebration
- Joint presentation with VDOE at the 2021 Education Equity Summer Institute – <https://www.virginiaisforlearners.virginia.gov/ed-equity-va/>

Regional Savings/Value: \$7,350,000.00

Newport News Savings/Value^G: \$350,000.00

Videos

WHRO's Digital Learning team and Production department worked with the VDOE to create a series of videos that focus on untold stories of African American history in Virginia. The videos are integrated into the AAH online modules and are set up as a playlist in eMediaVA. The titles in this series are:

- African American History: John Punch
- African American History: Darrell Rose
- African American History: The Underground Railroad in Coastal Virginia
- African American History: Zenda
- African American History: Gainsboro

Regional Savings/Value: \$2,100,000.00

Newport News Savings/Value^H: \$100,000.00

“The online modules gave my students an opportunity to work at their own pace, see history differently, and make connections to the content in their required courses.”

“My students LOVED the online modules. The interactivity kept them engaged, they loved the videos, the projects, and even the assessments!”

VA TV CLASSROOM

WHRO aired VA TV Classroom Season 1 (Learn and Grow with WHRO and Continue to Know with WHRO) for six weeks during the summer of 2020 from July 6 to August 14, 2020. VA TV Classroom Season 1 was a 52nd Annual Public Media Awards finalist in the Education/COVID-19 Category and WHRO to the Rescue was a 52nd Annual Public Media Awards finalist in the Overall Excellence in Education Category.

WHRO also responded to a VDOE competitive grant for fall programming and was awarded money that partially funded the creation, production, and dissemination of VA TV Classroom Season 2. The following shows were broadcast statewide through a partnership with other Virginia public media stations Monday through Friday for six weeks, September 14 to October 23, 2020:

- Learn and Grow with WHRO for grades K-3 – one-hour show
- Continue to Know with WHRO for grades 4-7 – one-hour show

WHRO also provided the shows on an FTP site for school divisions across the Commonwealth to access and use as desired. Additionally, WHRO made the live shows available for streaming on our website and shared an iFrame embed code and a generic promo with the other Virginia public media stations so they could easily post, brand, and promote the shows on their websites. Furthermore, WHRO split each daily show up into individual lesson segments and ingested them into eMediaVA and #GoOpenVA for on-demand viewing.

To create Season 2 of VA TV Classroom, WHRO hired and trained 34 Virginia teachers from 17 different school divisions to provide instruction on television. WHRO worked with VDOE Math and English Coordinators throughout the grant period to create a curriculum map of content topics for the shows. WHRO implemented this curriculum map with the teachers and produced the lesson segments.

Regional Savings/Value: \$575,535.00

Newport News Savings/Value!: \$59,620.00

“Watching... Va TV classroom, math, I don't know who this young woman is, but I love her! She reminds me of my favorite teachers all through school. She makes me want to learn, she makes it interesting and fun. Please, if you know who she is, let her know that she makes this 61 year old "student" smile in a time when smiles are more important than ever.”

Virtual Virginia

Virtual Virginia offered more than 100 online advanced-placement, core, world language, and elective courses to students across the Commonwealth during the 2020-21 school year. WHRO operated all software, systems, and technical support under contract with the VDOE and through WHRO's Virtual Virginia contract, Virginia school divisions had free access to their own instance of the Canvas learning management system for online instruction. In addition to the thousands of regional students utilizing Canvas locally, there were more than 3,500 HRETA registrations in Virtual Virginia courses, including 141 Newport News registrations from [Denbigh High School](#), [Gildersleeve Middle School](#), [Menchville High School](#), [Warwick High School](#), and [Woodside High School](#).

Once again, students from across the state had the opportunity to participate in a full-time online high school program through Virtual Virginia. Statewide, there were more than 2,400 course registrations, including 327 from HRETA school divisions. While there is no savings to HRETA schools, it is important to include this information in the list of services that WHRO provides to the K-12 community because it is revenue generating to WHRO and acknowledges the educational technology leadership position HRETA has attained.

Additional Educational Resources, Training, and Services

Batten Environmental Education Initiative

In March 2017, the Batten Environmental Education Initiative officially launched with a \$3 million gift from Jane Batten. In 2020-2021, WHRO:

- Completed upfitting of the Batten Environmental Education Van
- Wrapped the environmental van with PBS and WHRO's GreenBeats characters
- Wrote pre- and post-van visit lesson plans for each grade K-5
- Developed three interactivities for each grade level based on the GreenBeats videos

Regional Savings/Value: \$95,000.00

Newport News Savings/Value¹: \$9,840.00

PBS KIDS Writers Contest

The PBS KIDS Writers Contest, which is aligned to the Virginia Standards of Learning, encourages children to write and illustrate their own stories, and is open to K-5 students. In 2018, in connection with the Batten Environmental Education Initiative, we added a separate Environmental Story category. Local winners received cash awards and were honored during a Facebook Live awards ceremony. Due to school closing during the last quarter of the school year, the contest deadline for 2020 was extended and judging was delayed until the summer of 2020. It is difficult to determine the value/savings this activity represents, but participation in certain divisions implies its worth. In total, nearly 270 entries were received the past two years. [Seventeen Newport News students from Carver Elementary School submitted entries in the 2020 contest. Five students from Carver Elementary School and Sedgefield Elementary School submitted entries in the 2021 contest.](#)

Newport News Winners:

[2021 1st Place Fifth Grade – Saniya Hundley-Sweeney, “Saniya and the S Bots,” Carver Elementary](#)

[2021 Honorable Mention Third Grade – Kylan Boyer, “The Day I Glitched,” Sedgefield Elementary](#)

Regional Spelling Bee

The regional Spelling Bee is an annual event featuring 6th to 8th grade school Spelling Bee winners from Hampton Roads, Northeast North Carolina, and the Eastern Shore in a head-to-head competition that is broadcast on WHRO TV. Due to COVID restrictions this year, we were not able to host the competition in person but were able to host a virtual regional bee, and students representing 25 area schools as local Spelling Bee Champions competed. WHRO's production of the Spelling Bee won a bronze Telly Award in the General Television – Live category in 2018.

[“Thank you. So excited your show goes on during a pandemic. Much appreciated even though we can't watch this time.”](#)

Great Computer Challenges

Great Computer Challenges – Junior and Senior are joint projects of WHRO and Old Dominion University, and are competitive opportunities for students in grades K-12 to demonstrate their skills in various computer applications. Despite the challenges and restrictions due to COVID this past year, we were able to conduct a scaled down virtual version of the Great Computer Challenge. Categories and levels were restricted to those that would work well in a virtual setting. Twenty-seven teams participated in the Challenge this year, including [two Newport News teams](#).

Regional Savings/Value: \$1,080.00

Newport News Savings/Value^K: \$80.00

Newport News Participants and Winners:

School	Teacher Sponsor(s)	Grade Level	Category	Award
Carver Elementary School	Carolyn Harris	Level 2 - Grades 3-5	Desktop Publishing	
New Horizons Career & Technical Center	Sridhar Chinnabhandar	Level 4 - Grades 9-12	Graphic Design	3rd Place

WHRO Education Staff Member Presentations

WHRO Education staff members presented or exhibited at the following Local, Regional, Statewide, or National Events: National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) Annual Conference; Virginia Art Education Association (VAEA) Conference; Virginia Association for Supervision and Curriculum (VASCD) Annual Conference; Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) Conference; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Annual Conference; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – Clinch; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – Potomac; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – Rappahannock; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – Roanoke; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – Shenandoah; Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL) Regional Conference – York; Virginia Association of Science Teachers (VAST); Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) Annual Conference; and Region 2 Assistant Superintendents of Instruction meetings.

In addition, WHRO Education staff conducted training for Amelia County Public Schools, Bristol Virginia Public Schools, Danville Public Schools, Henrico County Public Schools, King William County Public Schools; Richmond Public Schools, and Rivermont Schools.

“I am a WHRO Member and am delighted to see these kinds of events. I thought the sessions were wonderful and got many ideas. I was not expecting to find so many valuable nuggets for my humanities and arts courses from listening to math teachers. However, it just proved again that teaching is at the core, not content.”

American Graduate 3: Getting to Work

The American Graduate: Getting to Work initiative is helping advance education and career readiness locally. WHRO Public Media is working with partners throughout Hampton Roads to assess workforce challenges and opportunities, and to produce content focused on the essential skills students and workers need to succeed in the job markets of today and tomorrow. This initiative focuses on three types of content through: television and radio broadcast, online at <http://amgrad.whro.org/home/>, and in the community. American Graduate targets the skills gap – the difference between high-demand jobs and the workforce qualified to enter them.

This past year, WHRO continued its American Graduate 3: Getting to Work initiative with a new focus on creating awareness in young women around the great opportunities in skilled careers/trades. Historically, jobs available for women without training or secondary education, such as retail, childcare, and hospitality, do not provide a sustainable wage. This is crucial to the Hampton Roads area as 27.4% of families with women as heads of household are living in poverty (2011-2015 U.S. Census Bureau). With the focus on young women, we launched the Work Like A Girl initiative, which attempts to dispel the stereotype that these jobs are just for men.

As part of this initiative, WHRO produced and broadcast seven 15-30 second spots creating awareness of opportunities for women in skilled careers during 2020-2021.

- Pierrette Swan: I am Strong!

- Rainham Rowe: Why I Work Like A Girl
- Pierrette Swan: Myths of Skilled Careers
- Rainham Rowe: Inspire Women to Work in Trades
- Leena Baker: A Day in the Life
- Leena Baker: Leena Knows how to Work Like A Girl
- Work Like A Girl Compilation

WHRO KIDS

WHRO KIDS is WHRO's 24/7 digital children's channel airing on WHRO TV 15-3, Cox 108, and Charter 701. In early 2017, this service was expanded to include a 24/7 streaming option that can be used on any mobile device. Featuring newer, award-winning early childhood programs such as Ready Jet Go!, Nature Cat, Odd Squad, Peg + Cat, Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood, Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum, Splash and Bubbles!, The Jim Henson Company's Dinosaur Train and Sid the Science Kid, Martha Speaks, The Wild Kratts, Pinkalicious, Molly of Denali, Word World, and perennial favorites Sesame Street, Curious George, Arthur, and Clifford The Big Red Dog, to name a few, WHRO delivered more than 160 hours of the best high-quality educational television programming each and every week, free of charge. WHRO also delivered more than 65 hours of children's programming each week on our main channel WHRO 15.1. In total, WHRO delivered more than 12,000 hours of televised instruction last year. Every single household in the WHRO service area can access this proven educational programming that helps parents prepare their children to enter school ready to learn, free of charge. Consequently, the true value is significantly more than the operational costs reported here.

Regional Savings/Value: \$275,000.00

Newport News Savings/Value^L: \$28,485.00

General PBS Programming

General PBS programming with full educational rights, such as American Experience, Nova, Nature, etc., is delivered each week on our main channel WHRO 15.1 and can be recorded and used in the classroom. Detailed local usage figures are unavailable, but according to national statistics, 30% of teachers use PBS programs in their classrooms.

Regional Savings/Value: \$221,555.00

Newport News Savings/Value^M: \$22,950.00

Local Educational Video Productions

In addition to VA TV Classroom Season 2, 2020-2021 local educational video productions included: 2020 Young Storytellers Awards Ceremony; 2021 Young Storytellers Awards Ceremony; 51 Ms. Martha Reads weekly literacy streaming programs; seven American Graduate Work Like a Girl interstitials; and 10 Make Breaks segments created in partnership with the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art to provide art appreciation and instruction to students who could not attend in person and did not have access to internet (some segments encouraged students to make art from items readily found in their homes and others instructed children in closer examination of artwork and the various techniques employed in their creation). Education Now segments featuring successful school practices in Chesapeake, Gloucester, Hampton, Isle of Wight, Mathews, Middlesex, Portsmouth, and York aired throughout the year on WHRO TV15, WHRO WORLD, and WHRO CREATE. GreenBeats and American Graduate segments also aired throughout the year.

Regional Savings/Value: \$480,260.00

Newport News Savings/Value^N: \$49,750.00

National Public Radio

National Public Radio (NPR) regularly covers education topics within major shows such as Morning Edition, All Things Considered, Talk of the Nation, etc. In 2019-2020, more than 300 stories touched on education topics, representing approximately 3% of the total number of stories covered.

Regional Savings/Value: \$16,945.00

Newport News Savings/Value^O: \$1,755.00

Local WHRV Radio productions

Local WHRV Radio productions Another View and HearSay with Cathy Lewis featured 24 programs or special reports on topics of interest to educators in 2020-2021. Please see the “Education Topics on Another View and HearSay in 2020-2021” section starting on page 19 for complete descriptions of each of the programs.

Regional Savings/Value: \$96,450.00

Newport News Savings/Value^P: \$9,990.00

Families and Early Learners

The Ready To Learn initiative is an innovative partnership between Congress, the U.S. Department of Education, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), PBS, and local public media stations – including WHRO – and many community-based partners. Targeted toward America's most at-risk kids, but made available to all families and children across the country, Ready To Learn's high-quality transmedia content is unparalleled in its impact, value, and necessity. The STEM and literacy-based educational programming created by Ready To Learn provides families with effective, non-commercial content that helps prepare children for success in school. Stimulating online games, skill tracker websites, and other learning resources for children, parents, caregivers, and teachers are also provided.

Combined, WHRO delivered more than 12,000 hours of the best high-quality Educational Early Childhood Programming last year on WHRO KIDS 15.3 and on WHRO 15.1 free-of-charge to every household in greater Hampton Roads. WHRO KIDS also provides a 24/7 streaming service that can be used on any mobile device.

The CPB initiatives this year focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and included STEM activities for students and professional development for teachers. The STEM Van was funded through a local foundation and a corporate underwriter; the initial PBS KIDS ScratchJr Coding Camp and teacher professional development were made possible by grants from PBS; and additional coding camps were funded by local foundations. Due to COVID restrictions, camps were restricted this past year.

The **WHRO STEM Van** has 20 iPads, 12 Chromebooks, and two touch screen monitors – all purchased with CPB funding – that are available for onsite visits for students to learn while having fun. To abide by CDC guidelines, WHRO STEM Van delivered resources to schools this year for Title I kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms. Virtual classroom visits were conducted by WHRO staff members as they shared STEM related activities in correlation with the VA Standards of Learning. WHRO staff used curriculum materials developed by PBS KIDS using the engineering model. The van made two school/community visits and three virtual classroom visits during the 2020-2021 school year.

WHRO's Literacy Van is a cheerful, brightly colored vehicle that tours throughout our broadcast region. Its mission is to bring awareness of the importance of practicing reading skills daily. The program, which includes storytelling and expressive literacy activities covering a variety of Pre-K Comprehensive Standards and Virginia Standards of Learning, is presented to students in Pre-K through 2nd grade to motivate them to become lifelong readers. After the presentation, children take a reader's pledge – a commitment that they will start practicing their reading every day. Once they have taken the pledge, they are eligible to tour the inside of the van, which is stocked with books that are given directly to children in high need situations and/or given to each classroom library the van visits. To abide by CDC guidelines, WHRO's Literacy Van's face-to-face appearances were limited. However, the van was regularly seen delivering First Books and other resources to Title I schools this year for kindergarten through 5th grade classrooms. The van made 27 school/community visits and six virtual classroom visits during the 2020-2021 school year.

“A very SUPER Thanks to Ms. Razor and Ms. Hightower at WHRO PBS for the super generous donation! The students loved their new books and really enjoyed seeing the fun Raising Readers van!”

Super WHY! Reading Camps are multi-day, interactive learning adventures that show campers ages 4-5 the power of reading, and motivate them to play with letters, sounds, and words through a comprehensive curriculum developed by noted literacy experts. Twenty-seven camps reaching nearly 500 children have been conducted since the initiative began in 2008, when WHRO conducted its first Super WHY! Reading Camp at Fort Story Army Base Child Development Center and participated in a study by Florida State University's Center for Reading Research. Campers showed gains in all of the literacy skills presented in the program, including an 84% gain in phonics skills and a 139% gain in word recognition skills.

PBS KIDS ScratchJr Coding Camps are one-, three-, or five-day afterschool programs where 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students are introduced to creative coding through digital and physical activities and given the opportunity to create their own stories, games, and collages with the PBS KIDS ScratchJr tablet app. Because of COVID health restrictions, no camps were held this school year.

Martha Speaks Reading Buddies, now in its twelfth year, has reached more than 2,500 Title I elementary school students in the region. Big Buddies (4th and 5th graders) and Little Buddies (kindergartners and 1st graders) meet for weekly sessions where they watch a Martha Speaks video, read the selected book, talk and play games, and write in the Reading Buddies Journal. Big Buddies receive a guide and books to practice before each session. Little Buddies take home a book and a Family Activity Booklet after each session. They also receive a Certificate of Achievement at the end of the program. The Big Buddies receive a chapter book to take home at the end of the sessions. In addition to the kindergartners and 1st graders mastering 24 new vocabulary words, teachers report that 4th and 5th grade participants take their leadership role very seriously, resulting in improved reading skills and a decrease in discipline problems.

WHRO Library Corners are decorated with PBS KIDS décor and are provided a wealth of fun educational resources and literacy activities for children to use when visiting the library. Our first corner was established at the Dr. Clarence Cuffee Library in Chesapeake. The program has now grown to include the Hampton Main Library in Hampton; and the Cradock and Main Branch Libraries in Portsmouth.

WHRO Super Reader Schools are Title I schools that receive additional services such as professional development, parent trainings, family literacy/STEM nights, classroom resources, and regular WHRO Literacy Van and STEM Van visits. Active WHRO Super Reader Schools include Bassette Elementary, Hampton; Carver Elementary School, Newport News; Richard Bowling, Coleman Place, and St. Helena Elementary, Norfolk; Kiptopeke Elementary, Northampton; James Hurst Elementary, Portsmouth; Booker T. Washington and Pioneer Elementary, Suffolk; and James River Elementary, Williamsburg.

“On behalf of the Bassette family we would like to thank WHRO for truly being a blessing to our students and their parents.”

Anytime Is Learning Time Training helps parents identify everyday teachable moments. All parents attending these trainings receive helpful PBS parent resources, tip sheets, and free books for their children. WHRO works with parent liaisons to set up trainings for parents in Title I schools, Head Start Centers, and childcare providers.

PBS KIDS content, including the WHRO KIDS 24/7 stream, games, and apps, among other services, are located on the Kids & Family page of WHRO’s main website, where there is a wealth of articles and education tips for parents. This page also provides information about our WHRO KIDS 24/7 channel, media player, and VA TV Classroom.

The **PBS KIDS Website** (www.pbskids.org) is an engaging multimedia destination specifically created for kids ages 2-8. With fun, quirky settings full of surprises, this site empowers kids to discover themselves, define the diverse world around them, explore new relationships, and embrace a love of learning. The website features popular age appropriate PBS series. Video clips, activities, apps, augmented reality games, and behind-the-scenes features are also available.

Title I School Resources – Superintendents and school representatives are kept up-to-date on Children’s Services initiatives and activities through regular Education Advisory Committee HRETA reports. These literacy resources and materials are regularly provided to Title I schools in all of WHRO’s owner-member school divisions as requested.

Tens of thousands of **First Books** have been distributed over the past 22 years to area children who would not otherwise own books. Grants, local foundations, and WHRO’s Leadership Circle book drives provide support to allow children in challenging circumstances to start their own libraries. Books are

distributed after parent and provider trainings, after WHRO literacy van visits, and at other community events.

Each year, WHRO is a major sponsor of the **Virginia Children's Festival**. In the past, we have brought major headline acts such as Maria and Elmo from Sesame Street, Mr. Steve of SteveSongs (a PBS personality), and Shock from The Electric Company. In addition, WHRO also secures PBS Costume Characters such as Super WHY!, Curious George, Word Girl, and Daniel Tiger. WHRO distributes hundreds of free books and provides hands-on computer labs, iPads, and touch screens, allowing children to experience all of the interactive, engaging, educational content now available online.

In response to school closings, WHRO's Children's Services department modified face-to-face activities to work in a virtual environment. Staff members conducted online training for parents and developed digital materials to support students, parents, and teachers. These included a virtual camp, digital home activities, and resources shared by text messaging.

Due to the limitations on in-person activities this past year, WHRO initiated a weekly Facebook streaming service to address literacy skills for young learners. Ms. Martha Reads features children's services manager, Martha Razor, reading select student-written stories from past Young Storytellers contests. This program strengthens literacy skills while highlighting student drawing and writing. Averaging 6,000 page views per week, this program proved to be very popular.

*"I would like to thank you for bringing such life to Jayd's book, **The Funny Pizza**. You did a marvelous job in reading her story. She was bouncing up and down on the sofa while you were reading it. This was priceless. Thank you very much."*

Overall, in 2020-2021, WHRO Children's Services reached more than 3,500 families, 120 caregivers/teachers, and 3,500 children. In addition, we distributed nearly 3,700 First Books and more than 3,300 activity Fun Books to children most in need.

Newport News Participants:

Carver Elementary is a Super Reader School. Students at Carver Elementary School participated in two virtual WHRO Literacy Van visits and Ms. Martha Reads story times. They also participated in a virtual WHRO STEM Van visit. Nearly 100 First Books were provided to Carver Elementary students at these events. In addition, 200 First Books were provided to Sedgefield Elementary School and a virtual WHRO Literacy Van visit with a Ms. Martha Reads story time was conducted at Richard T. Yates Elementary School.

Total Regional Savings/Value: \$80,555.00 (For all items above)

Total Newport News Savings/Value^Q: \$7,210.00 (For all items above)

**Newport News Public Schools
Return on WHRO Investment
2020-2021**

WHRO directly impacts:

- 1) Educators by providing ongoing, sustained, high-quality teacher training; innovative, technology-based instructional resources; and regional opportunities for recognition.
- 2) Students by providing online courses, on-demand video resources, educationally relevant competitions, and regional opportunities for recognition.
- 3) Adult learners by providing a variety of workforce development and GED programs and services.
- 4) Families by providing the highest quality children's programming 24 hours per day, seven days per week, as well as a variety of online resources and face-to-face, hands-on early childhood workshops.

In summary, WHRO educational efforts directly affect not only the schools' bottom lines, but also the quality of education for every single teacher, student, adult learner, and family in Hampton Roads. Exemplary educators and initiatives are regularly publicized on air, online, and in person.

Newport News Annual Investment in WHRO:

Annual Assessment	\$67,087.50
C.I.I. Annual Dues	\$5,750.00

Total Annual Investment* **\$72,837.50**

**Additional product/service specific revenue (i.e., LMS group purchases, etc.) is included in the saving/value calculations below.*

Direct Value/Savings:

eMediaVA Operation and Content Acquisition	\$45,100.00
eMediaVA Trainings	\$3,450.00
Special Topic Forums	\$0.00
Other WHRO Education Professional Development	\$20,100.00
WHRO Education Online Course Development	\$157,500.00
LMS Group Purchase	\$7,025.00
African American History Modules	\$350,000.00
African American History Videos	\$100,000.00
VA TV Classroom	\$59,620.00

Total Direct Annual Value/Savings **\$742,795.00**

Newport News Direct Return on Investment **\$10.20 to \$1.00**

Additional Value/Savings:

Batten Environmental Education Initiative Learning Objects	\$9,840.00
Great Computer Challenges (Junior and Senior Divisions)	\$80.00
WHRO KIDS	\$28,485.00
General PBS Programming	\$22,950.00
Local Educational Video Productions	\$49,750.00
General NPR Programming	\$1,755.00
Local Educational Radio Productions	\$9,990.00
Families/Early Learners	\$7,210.00

Total Additional Annual Value/Savings **\$130,060.00**

Total Direct and Additional Annual Value/Savings **\$872,855.00**

Total Newport News Return on Investment **\$12.00 to \$1.00**

Value/Savings Calculations

- A Comparable service value (\$750.00 per building) multiplied by the number of buildings in each HRETA division plus content licensing fees (\$7,100.00) and playlist creation (\$2,000.00) multiplied by the number of WHRO owner school divisions (21) to yield the true regional value.
- B Number of division registrations multiplied by an average course registration fee of \$150.00.
- C Number of division registrations multiplied by an average course registration fee of \$150.00.
- D Number of division registrations multiplied by an average course registration fee of \$150.00.
- E 2020-2021 WHRO online course development costs to create new learning management system versions of courses that each division would have to pay on its own (\$157,500.00) multiplied by the number of WHRO owner school divisions (21) to yield the true regional value. Also includes trainings and meetings with individual divisions at \$1,500.00 and \$740.00 each, respectively.
- F Brightspace licenses (\$10.40 each) minus cash paid by each participating division.
- G African American History module development costs that each division would have to pay on its own (\$350,000.00) multiplied by the number of WHRO owner school divisions (21) to yield the true regional value.
- H African American History video production costs that each division would have to pay on its own (\$100,000.00) multiplied by the number of WHRO owner school divisions (21) to yield the true regional value.
- I Total costs to create and distribute VA TV Classroom Season 2 on television and via streaming (\$212,145.00) plus costs to create and ingest segments into eMediaVA (\$18,240.00) plus broadcast value (\$345,145.00) allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- J Environmental education learning object creation costs (\$95,000.00) allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- K Number of division teams multiplied by HRETA member entry fee discount.
- L Total annual operational cost (\$275,000.00) of WHRO KIDS allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- M Annual WHRO PBS dues (\$1,107,749.00) multiplied by 20% (conservative estimated educational percentage of program usage) allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- N 2020 and 2021 Young Storytellers promotional value (\$40,000) plus Ms. Martha Reads promotional value (\$300,000.00) plus American Graduate Work Like a Girl segment production and broadcast costs (\$90,420.00) plus Make Breaks production costs (\$23,000.00) plus GreenBeats broadcast costs (\$780.00) plus Education Now broadcast costs (\$26,060.00) all allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- O Annual WHRO NPR dues (\$564,844.00) multiplied by 3% (based on NPR statistics regarding the number of programs directly related to Education) allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- P Average Another View and HearSay with Cathy Lewis episode production cost (\$4,150.00) plus special reports production costs (\$1,000.00) multiplied by the number of episodes, special reports, or podcasts of interest to educators allocated across HRETA owners according to relative size.
- Q Number of training sessions conducted multiplied by the average cost per session (\$750.00/day) plus number of camps conducted multiplied by cost to conduct them (\$1,000.00-\$5,000.00) plus number of appearances or events (\$250.00-\$500.00/each) throughout the region plus the cost of materials distributed.

eMediaVA Digital Learning Resources
Produced or Acquired by WHRO in 2020-2021

James Madison's Montpelier (27 videos): Video collection from Montpelier's series on the "Presidency and the Constitution"

Newport News Public Library (1 video): The Story of Whittaker Memorial Hospital | Newport News, VA

WHRO Public Media (1 video): Connecting Currents | Pamunkey River: Lifeblood of Our People

Young Explorers (75 videos with supporting materials): Young Explorers is a growing collection of videos, activities, and materials designed for children ages 4-9. In the series, children are encouraged to explore and learn more about topics connected to STEM, the arts, and literacy.

And She Could Be Next (19 videos; 2 lesson plans): The New American Majority Lesson Plan; Voter Suppression Lesson Plan; Mijente; Voter Suppression; New Americans; We Are Not Alone; That Is Your Human Right; Vote Your Values; Youth Have a Voice; Shape Your Future; A Pathway for the Pakistani Muslim Community; Women of Color Taking the Lead; The Value of Grandmothers in Their Grandchildren's Lives; Marie Elena Durazo's Career; Make Your Opinions Known; A Mission to Stop Gun Violence; Slow Death of Our Sense of Democracy; Democracy Does Not Stop on Election Day; You Need to Go through Dorothy Bolden; No One Teaches You How to Run for Office; You Can't Complain if You're Not Part of the Solution.

Illustrative Mathematics (96 videos with supporting materials): This series provides video versions of problem-based lessons in 6-8 Math and Algebra I. Each video is accompanied by a printed version of the corresponding activity along with a set of practice problems.

GreenBeatsSM (2 videos): Help the Garden Grow; Help the Garden Grow (One-Minute Version).

Rise Resilience Challenge (12 videos): Infra-SGA; Infra-SGA (One-Minute Version); Resilient Enterprise Solutions; Resilient Enterprise Solutions (One-Minute Version); Constructis; Constructis (One-Minute Version); Grow Oyster Reefs; Grow Oyster Reefs (One-Minute Version); Overview; Overview (One-Minute Version); Landscape Resilience Partnership; Landscape Resilience Partnership (One-Minute Version).

Native Plants of Virginia (6 videos): Winterberry; Possumhaw; Swamp Sunflower; Rattlesnake Master; Aromatic Astor; Switchgrass.

African American History (5 videos): John Punch; Darrell Rose; The Underground Railroad in Coastal Virginia; Zenda; Gainsboro.

Learn and Grow with WHRO, Season 2 (121 videos): Video segments from season two of Learn and Grow with WHRO television series were added to eMediaVA as subject matter content for grades K-3.

Continue to Know with WHRO, Season 2 (121 videos): Video segments from season two of Continue to Know with WHRO television series were added to eMediaVA as subject matter content for grades 4-7.

Virginia Symphony (3 video series links; 20 accompanying student worksheets): Music Learning Lab: Spotlight, Virtual Petting Zoo, Technique Tips; Violin, Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trumpet, French Horn, Vocabulary List, Trombone, Tuba, Harp, Interpretation and Style in Music, Organizing and Practicing Orchestral Repertoire, Dealing with Performance Anxiety, Practice Structure and What to Practice, Orchestral Etiquette, Audition Excerpt Preparation.

Bridgeman Art Library (115 images): eMediaVA purchased the rights to 115 digital images that cover African American history, world history, and world religions.

Austin City Limits: Lessons from the Show (10 media galleries with supporting materials): Alessia Cara; Brandi Carlile; The Pretenders; H.E.R.; Billie Eilish; August Greene; John Legend and the Roots; Willie Nelson; The Raconteurs; Rosalia.

Donkey Hodie (6 videos; 4 documents; 2 links): Art Pals; Donkey's FroYo Stand; Change the Plan; You Can Do It!; Encouragement Flags; The Waiting Game; Hoof Dancing; Masked Veggies; Growing the Ungrowdenia; Chill Jamboree; The Royal Hosts; Super Duper Sleepover.

Elinor Wonders Why (27 videos; 44 documents; 6 interactives): In this show, Elinor, an observant and curious bunny rabbit, Ari, a funny and imaginative bat, and Olive, a perceptive and warm elephant, follow their natural curiosity and seek out answers using their science inquiry skills.

Hemingway: A Film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick (10 videos with supporting materials, 1 educators guide): Style and Substance in Hemingway's "Hills Like White Elephants"; Hemingway's The Sun Also Rises: "Talking" with Authors and Scholars; Hemingway and Gender Identity; The Old Man and the Sea: Critical Interpretations; Hemingway's Influences and Contemporaries; Comparing Hemingway to Young Adult Literature; Hemingway: The Art vs. The Artist; Hemingway's Privilege and Social Position; Exploring Hemingway's Style; A Farewell to Arms: Shaping Fact for Fiction; Hemingway Educator Guide.

Science Museum of Virginia: Science Shorts (12 videos; 12 documents): States of Matter; Marshmallow Madness Activity; What is a Chemical Reaction?; Make Some Gas Activity; What Is Carbon? Graphite Circuit Lab Activity; Acid and Bases; Let's Talk Density!; Fluid Dynamics; How Is Butter Made?; Static Electricity; How to Make Bubbles; Air Quality; What Is Sound? Hand Washing; Make a Model Eardrum Activity; What's in the Air Activity; Big Bubbles Activity; Moldy Bread Petri Dish Activity; Dancing Bats Activity; Butter and Cheese Please Activity; DIY Vortex Cannon Activity; Density Tube Activity; Acidic, Neutral, or Basic Activity.

Science Museum of Virginia: Live Astronomy Show (5 videos): All Your Questions Answered!; Visiting the Outer Solar System; Visiting the Inner Solar System; Edge of the Solar System; Asteroids.

Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center & WHRO (5 videos; 5 lab activities): Land Ice vs. Sea Ice; The Effects of Ocean Acidification on Marine Creatures; Ocean Acidification; Sea Turtle Rescue; Identifying Sea Turtles.

Seltzer Video: Nobody Wants Us Documentary (14 videos with supporting materials): Chapter 1: Only a Matter of Time; Chapter 2: Leaving Everything Behind; Chapter 3: Getting Out Alive; Chapter 4: Will We Get Transit Visas?; Chapter 5: What If Nobody Wants Us?; Chapter 6: Everyone Has Hope; Chapter 7: Trapped On the Ship; Chapter 8: Trying to Save the Refugees; Chapter 9: Will We Be Sent Back?; Chapter 10: Fighting for their Freedom; Chapter 11: The First Lady Steps In; Chapter 12: Discrimination at Home & The U.S.; Chapter 13: A Bittersweet Ending; Chapter 14: Teen Commentary & Credits.

Digital Learning Collections

Professional Development: Transformative Teaching Collection; Social-Emotional Learning Resources: Core Competencies | Relationship Skills, Social Awareness, Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making; Social-Emotional Learning Instruction.

PreK-K: Arthur Collection: Social and Emotional Skills; Civics: Making a Difference; Appreciating Diversity and Talking Through Differences; Elinor Wonders Why | Being Curious; Curious George STEM Collection; Molly of Denali Collection.

Elementary: Fine Arts Resources | Young Learners & Elementary; Artopia Collection; Punctuation; Spanish Interactives for Elementary; Spanish Videos for Elementary; Spanish Animations for Elementary; How Voting Works; Teaching Media Literacy | Elementary Resources; Dinosaurs!; Virtual Field Trips: PreK-5.

Secondary: Elements of Art; Fine Arts Resources | Middle and High School; The Metropolitan Opera; Positive and Negative Numbers; Rational and Irrational Numbers and Absolute Value; Integers; Math Sorting and Classifying; Counting and Writing Numbers; Open Up Resources | 6-8 Math; Sun Lab: NOVA Labs; SciGirls Profiles: Women in STEM; How Voting Works; The Party System; Elections and Presidential Campaigns; And She Could Be Next Collection; Life During World War II: Using Artifacts to Understand History; Women in WWII; Latino Americans; Colonial America; European Exploration Collection; West African Civilizations; American Indians; Women's Suffrage Movement/US Suffrage History; The Era of Jim Crow: Self-paced Activities; George Washington and the American Revolution; Analyzing Primary Sources; Poetry in America; Teaching Women's Suffrage; Against All Odds: Inside Statistics; Math in the Workforce; Asian Americans Collection.

Education Topics on Another View and HearSay in 2020-2021

Another View

Virginia Beach Public Schools Equity Plan, September 17, 2020 – On September 9, 2020, the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Board adopted an educational equity policy that states: “Virginia Beach City Public Schools is committed to establishing and sustaining an equitable community that exemplifies the School Division's core values and equity mission to end the predictive value of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation/gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability and to ensure each member of the school community's success. The School Board and the School Division reject all forms of unlawful discrimination and harassment as destructive to their core values and strategic goals.” What does this mean in practical terms for the students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community of VBCPS? We get answers from VBCPS Superintendent Dr. Aaron Spence and Dr. LaQuiche Parrot, Director of the VBCPS Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. VCBPS is one of 21 school divisions that own WHRO Public Media.

Williamsburg: Preserving African American History, March 4, 2021 – Williamsburg, Virginia and specifically William and Mary and Colonial Williamsburg have come a long way in acknowledging the contributions of African American enslaved and free people to quality of life since the landing of the first Africans to English North America more than 400 years ago. What was once an ignored legacy is now coming to light through thoughtful apology, rigorous scholarship, and archaeological findings. We talk about the latest finding – the identification of the structure of the Williamsburg Bray School, an 18th century school dedicated to the education of free and enslaved Black children. We also get an update on the archaeological dig of the original First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, the 3rd oldest Black church in America, built for and by Black people. Our guests include Jody Allen, the Robert Francis Engs Director of The Lemon Project at William and Mary; Connie Matthews Harshaw, President, Let Freedom Ring Foundation; Jack Gary, Archaeologist, Colonial Williamsburg; and others involved in the collaboration between William and Mary, Colonial Williamsburg, and the Historic First Baptist Church of Williamsburg.

Dorothy Watkins, October 22, 2020 – There are very few Virginia schools named after an African American, and the number of those buildings dedicated to black women is even smaller. But here in Hampton Roads, on Burns Drive in Newport News, sits Watkins Early Childhood Center, named after educator and activist Dorothy Watkins. Lisa Godley takes a look at her life and legacy.

HearSay with Cathy Lewis

Reopening Schools, July 13, 2020 – As different school systems plan to reopen throughout Virginia, teachers, parents and students are faced with difficult questions. We talk to experts about the challenges and the controversy.

Race, History, Names, and Symbols, July 14, 2020 – Protests over the killing of 46-year old Black man George Floyd by Minneapolis police have forced a national conversation about race, including the racist symbols and figures that continue to exist in our society. Earlier this week, Gov. Ralph Northam called for districts to take Confederate names off schools in Virginia, and monuments and statues to the Confederacy have been coming down across the country. Companies bearing racial stereotypes like Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben and the Cream of Wheat symbol, have announced they are changing their names and updating their branding. We ask the question: What's in a name? How do we determine which ones should stay or go?

Foreign Students, July 15, 2020 – We talk about the crisis faced by foreign students who may have to leave the country.

Virtual Learning, July 22, 2020 – As we get closer to fall, education plans across Hampton Roads are coming into focus. We discuss the role virtual learning will play in the coming months.

School Names, July 28, 2020 – A more in-depth conversation on schools in Hampton Roads

College in the Fall, August 26, 2020 – Colleges and universities across the country are struggling to decide how to carry out their fall semesters amid the coronavirus pandemic. We take a look at what the schools in our region are doing and discuss the health, educational and financial factors that are driving decisions.

School Plans, September 1, 2020 – Hampton Roads' fall plans will be discussed.

Challenges to Schools, September 9, 2020 – An expert discussion about learning during the pandemic.

School Reopening Plans, December 8, 2020 – A review of winter plans.

Falling Behind in School, December 16, 2020 – Do you feel like your children have lost out on educational opportunities this year? What should we do to solve this problem going forward?

Virtual Learning, December 22, 2020 – Cathy Lewis talks with a local educator about virtual learning.

Schools And COVID-19, January 6, 2021 – We talk about how COVID-19 is impacting education in schools across Virginia.

Learning and the Pandemic, February 2, 2021 – How has the pandemic affected the major choices we make – to marry, get a new job, or to educate our kids? Cathy Lewis discusses the big decisions during this difficult time.

In-Person Learning, February 8, 2021 – We talk about in-person learning options coming to Virginia students.

The Underground Railroad, February 9, 2021 – We learn about an effort to uncover evidence of the Underground Railroad (grant from Virginia Humanities.)

ODU President, February 16, 2021 – We talk to the incoming president of Old Dominion University.

Governor's School for The Arts, February 24, 2021 - We discuss diversity at the Governor's School for the Arts.

"First Day" Back to the Classroom, March 16, 2021 - In February, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam set a March 15 deadline for schools to reopen for in-person learning. For many students, that meant yesterday was their first day back in the classroom in nearly a year. We check in with the community about how it went.

COVID-19 and Learning Loss, April 26, 2021 – We discuss ways to address learning loss from the pandemic.

Tuition-Free Community College, May 4, 2021 - We discuss the prospect of tuition-free community college.

Vaccines and Kids, May 10, 2021 – We discuss the issues surrounding children and COVID-19 vaccines.

Notes

Educational Advisory Committee

The Educational Advisory Committee (EAC) consists of a division-selected School Board member or designee from each HRETA Member Division. The EAC receives reports, updates, and other information related to educational issues and priorities. The EAC meets four times each year at WHRO, generally in October, December, March, and May. The EAC is the decision-making body on matters related to the policy, planning, and operation of WHRO public education related activities.

Superintendents Advisory Council

The Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC) consists of HRETA member Superintendents. Because school divisions are the owners of WHRO, this group of superintendents serves as the body that makes final recommendations to the EAC regarding decisions related to the policy, planning, and operation of WHRO public education-related activities. The SAC meets five times each year at WHRO, generally in October, December, January, March, and May. The SAC chair may schedule additional meetings as needed. The SAC will receive reports on various issues pertaining to WHRO as well as summary reports regarding budgets, grants, instructional related services, and other business matters associated with educational initiatives supporting public schools.

Technology Advisory Committee

The Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) consists of HRETA member Chief Information Officers or other Superintendent designees from each division. The TAC reviews all aspects of established educational activities (including budgets, grants, new initiatives, etc.) and provides comment on any related issues or concerns. Additionally, the TAC works with WHRO staff to recommend new regional technology-based directives and initiatives and provides written reports to the SAC. The C.I.I. will serve as a resource to the TAC, providing detailed information on their area of responsibility and recommendations, if any, relative to their activities. The TAC meets five times a year at WHRO, generally in September, November, January, March, and May. Additional meetings may be scheduled as determined by the TAC Chair.

Consortium for Interactive Instruction

The Consortium for Interactive Instruction (C.I.I.) consists of HRETA member representatives that are appointed by the division Superintendent. The C.I.I. serves as a subcommittee for the TAC to facilitate the communication, implementation, forums, and other activities essential to collaboration of instructional technologies in the HRETA region. C.I.I. business meetings are held three times a year, generally in September, January, and May, with additional special interest forums scheduled as needed throughout the year.

Online Learning System Administrators

The Online Learning System Administrator group is comprised of school division representatives and WHRO Education personnel. These individuals serve as learning management system administrators and meet together to support online and blended learning. Online Learning System Administrator meetings are held regularly throughout the year.