



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2024.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: _____

Program Title: _____

Program Category: _____

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Telephone: _____ Website: _____

Email: _____

SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

LEGO Summer
(Community & Economic Development Category)

Executive Summary:

The goal of our LEGO Education initiative is to strengthen our partnership with LEGO by moving a manufacturing facility to the county while broadening the resources, opportunities, and learning pathways for all of our students. Not only is this to put resources in every school, but to also support the teachers with training (face to face and virtual) from LEGO Education as well as in-house support. The long-term plan for this is to continue with this LEGO brick by brick until we have an established club network for schools to share ideas and participate in competitions and showcases focused on problem-solving and teamwork.

Problem or need addressed by the program:

Engaging students is, and will always be, a challenge. LEGO continues to be a driving force in the space of play and learning. LEGO Education's education specific kits, lessons, and supports are geared directly to not only engaging students in the bricks, but furthering their skills to become an engaged community member when they move beyond the schoolhouse. There is also a layer of wonder that can be created at an early age that can also drive a passion into a career that would also support LEGO in Chesterfield County. We all know the best of employees are those that believe in what it is their employer provides.

Program Description:

This program became a reality in April of 2023 to ensure a strong start to the 2023-2024 school year. Every school received a pallet of kits specifically selected for the age of the students. Schools were encouraged to find the best path for their community of learners on how these kits would be housed and used. Some schools have them living with their STEAM teacher, Librarian, and a mix of both. Access

Chesterfield County, VA

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to these kits is more than the Science or STEAM content areas as there are English content lessons that use them as well.

Many schools began using the kits right away while others waited for the new school year. Both were acceptable and every school was encouraged to make their own decision.

Over the summer, CCPS developed a summer session STEAM course for middle school students to engage in while performing content recovery efforts. This was also a wonderful space for us to test our lessons and train teachers early in use and implementation.

LEGO Education has also been with us twice (so far) to train two individuals from each school on using the resources, lesson planning, and standard alignment to our Virginia Standards of Learning.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

Ensuring access for all of our students, we sent kits to every school. We also reached out to a not-for-profit organization and received 100 braille LEGO kits to best serve our visually impaired population. Every school received at least one kit (more if needed to best serve students enrolled in need).

Program Cost:

The initial investment for this initiative was just under 1 million dollars of our operational monies. The investment here was more than the pallet of kits delivered to each school. It also established a dynamic relationship with LEGO Education (and LEGO) that has resulted in several virtual meetings for help in development and rollout of content, onsite professional development from experts from all over the country, and a pathway for continual feedback in both directions as the maturation process of this continues.

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Any county interested in this will need to estimate approximately \$10-12,000.00 per school site for the kits needed to serve the school site population. The professional development and support mentioned did come with a large investment such as ours and may vary based on the total investment in the kits.

Program Results/Success:

The initial success of our initiative occurred over the summer with our STEAM sessions at several sites that engaged students and, in many cases, introduced coding to middle school students for the first time.

There is also a success often overlooked and that is with the teachers. The feedback from teachers has been great! They have shared with us their gratitude, expertise, ideas, and outcomes with the work.

Worthiness of an award:

The greatest thing a school division can do is to help grow well-informed and well-prepared community members who are ready to enter adulthood to not only participate in the community, but to make it better. Complementing the new LEGO manufacturing facility in the county with LEGO specific learning conditions is exactly what a forward-thinking division should do to create wonder and expertise in a condition that can promote a potential career that will allow for the individual to put down roots and become an active member of the county.

Supplemental Materials:

- Classroom photos (enclosed)

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Classroom Photos:

