

BATH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: INFORMATION { X } ACTION { } CLOSED MEETING { }

SUBJECT: ITEMS FOR BOARD MEMBERS



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Betsy Heggie, MBA
Chief Executive Officer
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(804) 527-7717

GRASP Results: Bath County Public Schools Summary of School Years 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16

- 187 students were assisted in overcoming financial and motivational challenges to the goal of higher education, through one-on-one meetings with GRASP advisors.
- 73.3% of these students were from low-income families (at or below 300% of federal poverty guidelines).
- 43.7% of students who responded reported that neither of their parents had graduated from college.
- 100% of students who responded reported that meeting with their GRASP advisor had improved their understanding of how to pay for education after high school. Raising awareness of college costs and the resources available to help pay them is a crucial component of any college access program.
- 1,476 additional contacts were made with students and parents through small-group advising sessions and through classroom and evening presentations.
- Last Dollar Scholarships totaling \$6,000 were awarded to students to help with books, technology needs, and other expenses not covered by financial aid.
- SOAR Virginia® students earned \$51,000 in scholarships. This program is created and funded by Virginia529 and administered by GRASP.
- This year, GRASP is piloting a **2+2 Transfer Scholarship** for seniors who plan to obtain an associate degree from community college before transferring to a four-year college to complete their baccalaureate. Thirty scholarships of \$1,000 each will be awarded to applicants from across all GRASP localities, and recipients who meet the requirements of their guaranteed admission agreement will be able to renew for their second year. The goal is to incentivize students to utilize this lower-cost route toward receiving a bachelor's degree.



Bath County GRASP Advisor

Jamilyn Fussell

Jami Fussell is the GRASP Advisor at Bath County High School.

Jami is a Bath County resident and the mother of two boys. She attended Appalachian State University, where she studied communications and photography. From there, she went on to explore the world as a flight attendant for 8 years. After her first son was born, she founded her own media and photography businesses. She is passionate about education and in seeing all of the children in her county go on to achieve their dreams through higher education. Through her own experience, she understands the challenges of navigating through the financial aid process and is happy to serve as a resource for Bath County families. Jami also implements the SOAR Virginia® early commitment program for GRASP at the high school.



Let's compare the numbers*...

4 Year School

Annual Cost \$25,000



Total Cost \$100,000

2+2 Transfer Program

Year 1 & 2 Cost
\$8,800



Year 3 & 4 Cost
\$50,000



Total Cost \$58,800

A cost savings of \$41,200 means less debt when you graduate!

*These figures represent average cost of attendance at in-state public colleges and universities.

Let's stay connected!



GRASP is a 501(c)(3)

**Great Aspirations
Scholarship
Program, Inc.**

**4551 Cox Rd.
Suite 115
Glen Allen, VA 23060**

For information about this program contact

GRASP at

(804)-527-7726

info@grasp4virginia.com

GRASP 2+2 Renewable Scholarship

Earn your associate degree at a Virginia Community College and then transfer to a 4-year school to earn your baccalaureate



Apply now for Fall

Deadline March 31

GRASP4VA.ORG

affordable
community
college

2 years

+

"four-year"
college

2 years

=



at a fraction of the cost!



This GRASP student attended 2 years of community college, then transferred to UVA! Rachel now teaches math in her hometown.

GRASP 2+2 Renewable Scholarship

Scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded to selected applicants for the first year of community college and may be renewed for a second year.

These scholarships help meet the cost of books, computers or other expenses not covered by a student's financial aid package.

Application may be found at grasp4va.org

Eligibility

- Have met with the High School GRASP Advisor
- Plan to participate in a 2+2 Transfer program with a Guaranteed Admission Agreement
- Possess at least a 2.0 cumulative GPA in high school
- Is a current senior in high school
- Have filed a FAFSA
- Must have financial need (as determined by the FAFSA)

Other Benefits of 2+2 Transfer Program

Guaranteed Admission

Students who graduate from a Virginia Community College with an associate degree and minimum GPA may obtain GUARANTEED admission to one of more than 20 colleges and universities.

www.vawizard.org/wizard/guaranteed-admission-agreements

Transfer Grants

Eligible students who transfer from a community college to a participating 4-year college may receive up to \$3,000 annually for two years, at that 4-year institution.