

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

New Teacher Academy
2026

SETH KNIGHT
SPECIALIST, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



AGENDA

01. FACE Overview

02. Unpacking Family Engagement

03. Approach and Strategy





**Harlem
Children's
Zone**



ABOUT ME

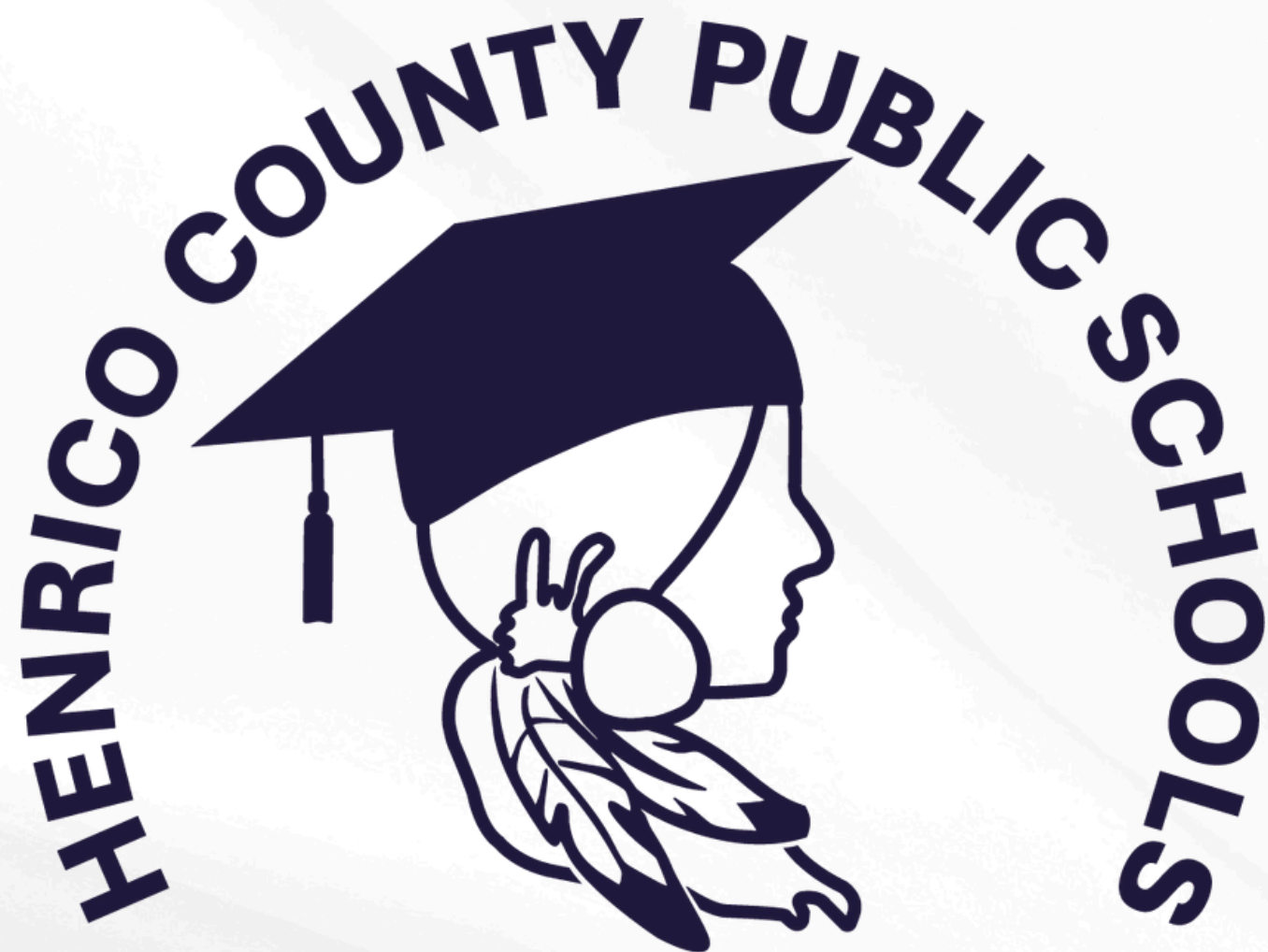


THUMBS UP - THUMBS DOWN

1. Parent/caregiver engagement impacts student achievement
2. Family involvement is a shared responsibility between families and schools
3. Community partners are an important part of student learning and engagement
4. I feel comfortable connecting with families



ABOUT US




**Family & Community
Engagement**

OUR PURPOSE

Serves as an Essential bridge between Henrico County Public Schools (HCPS) and the broader community.

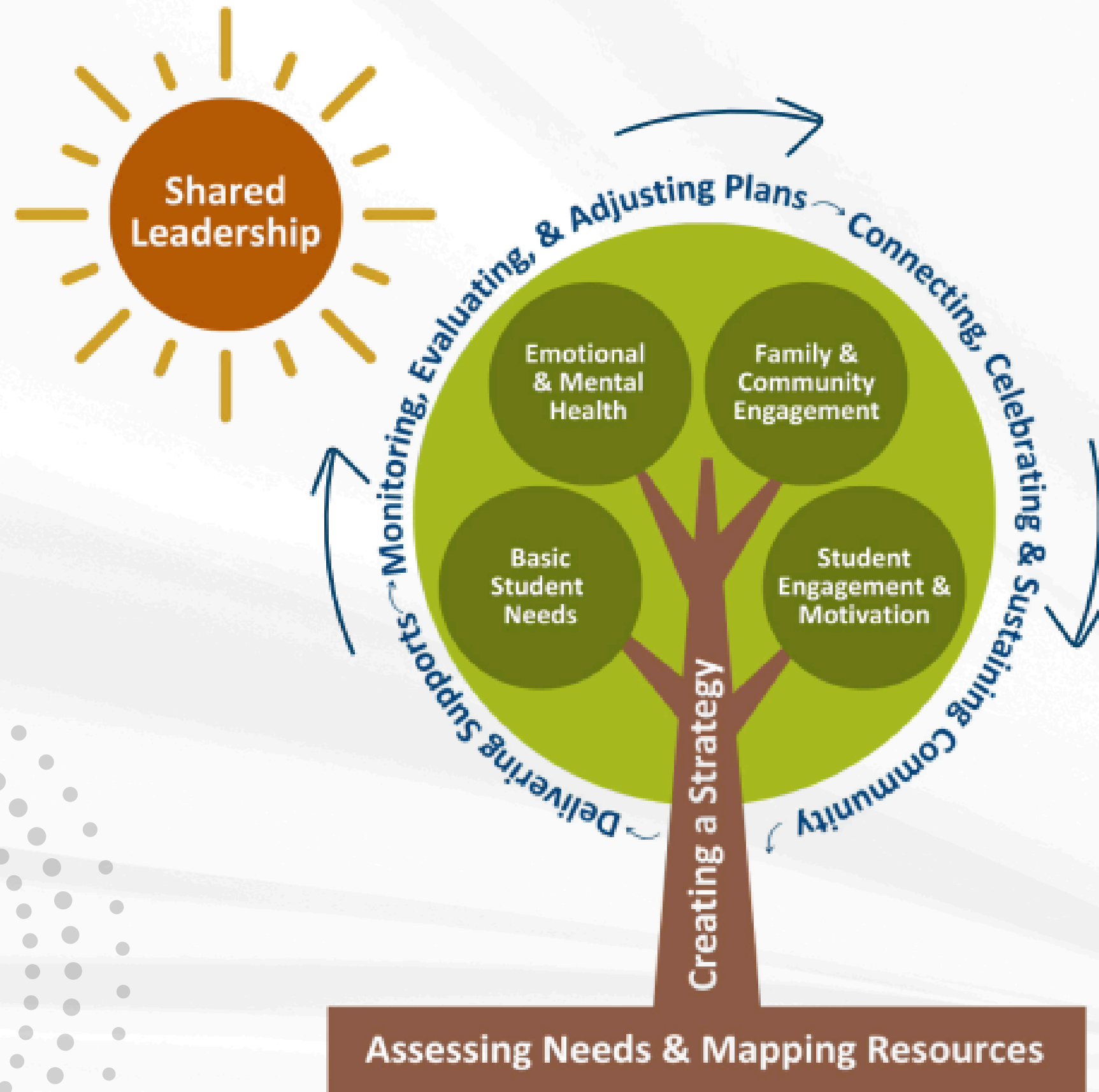
Supports a broader approach to education that goes beyond the classroom.

Fosters meaningful partnerships among schools, families, and community organizations.

Creates a collaborative ecosystem that supports student success and enriches the educational experience for all.



OUR APPROACH





OUR PEOPLE

22

Family Advocates

11

Community School Resource
Coordinators

2

Community School Managers

2

Afghan Family Navigators



OUR ECOSYSTEM



Henrico County Public Schools
Oak Avenue
Complex



2
Community School Hubs



44
Spokes



Community
Connections



UNPACKING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



What Is your Favorite Restaurant?

What makes it so great?



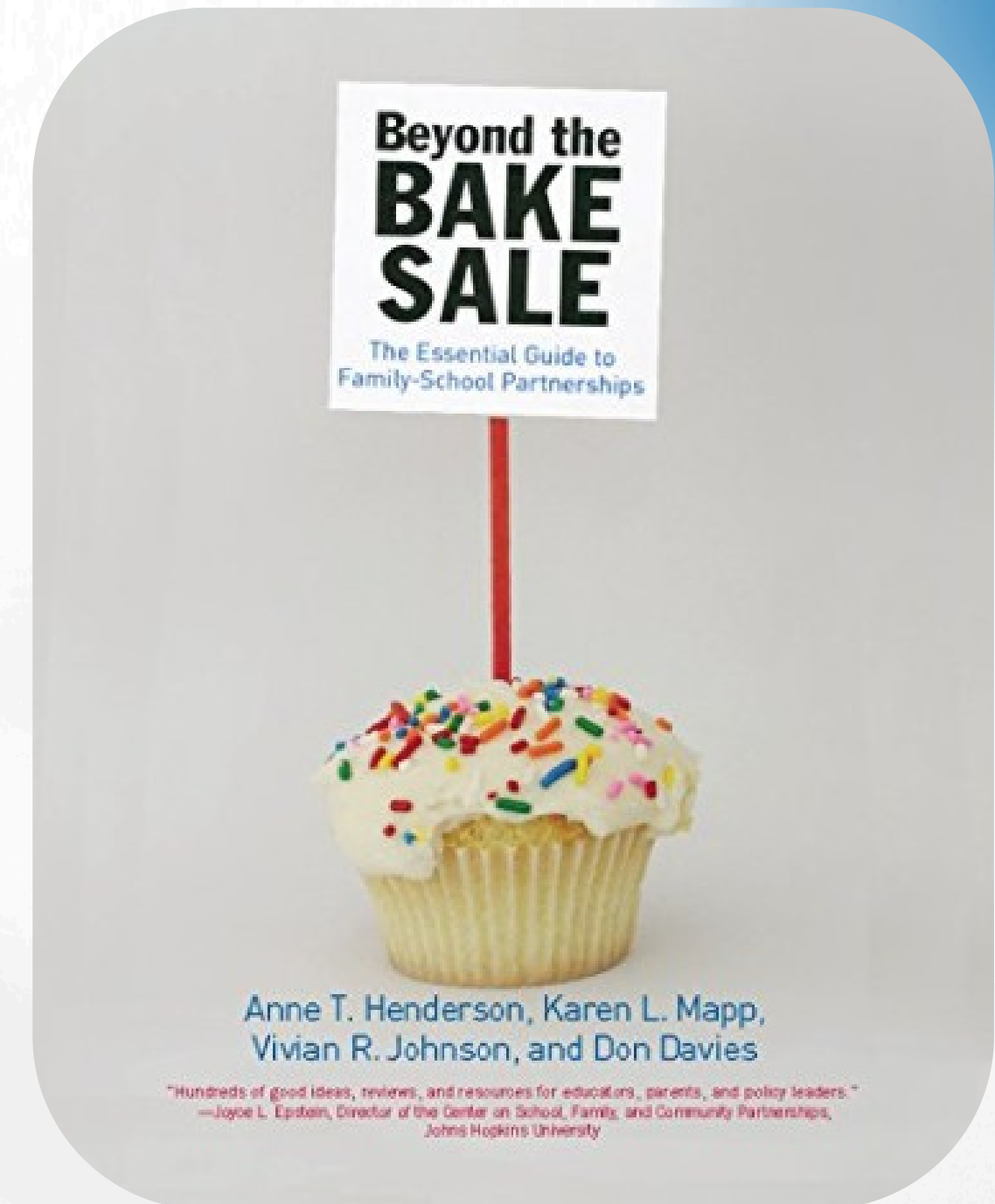
WE KNOW...

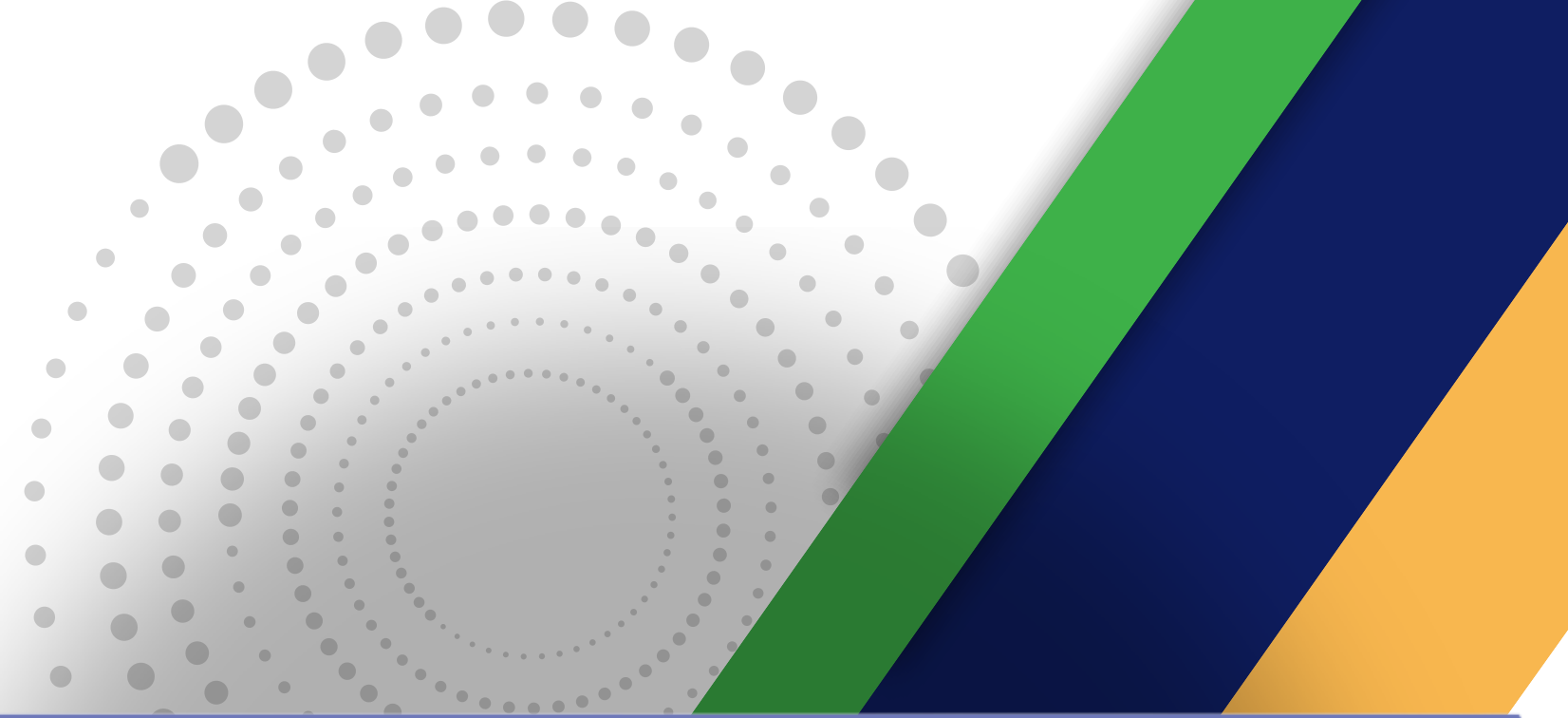
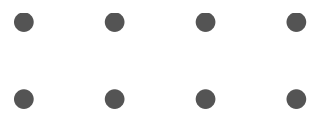
The Benefits of Family Engagement Include

Stronger Attendance: Regular communication between home and school helps lower chronic absenteeism.

Teacher Support: Educators report higher job satisfaction and greater success when families act as partners in the education process.

Better Community Trust: Schools that reach out to all caregivers build a safer, more positive climate for everyone.





FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CONTINUUM

Continuum Level:	INVOLVEMENT	ENGAGEMENT	LEADERSHIP
Parent Role:	RECIPIENT	CONSULTANT/PARTNER	CHANGE AGENT
Level of Partnership:	Participates in services and is given information about available services and ongoing efforts.	Asked for feedback and is involved in discussions about problems and which change strategies should be used. Provides information that is used to make decisions.	Influences decisions and takes part in implementing actions, collecting and analyzing data, and strategic planning.



WHERE TO START



Occupation

Race, Ethnicity,
Culture, Language

Family Systems

Talents, Hobbies,
Interests

Socioeconomics

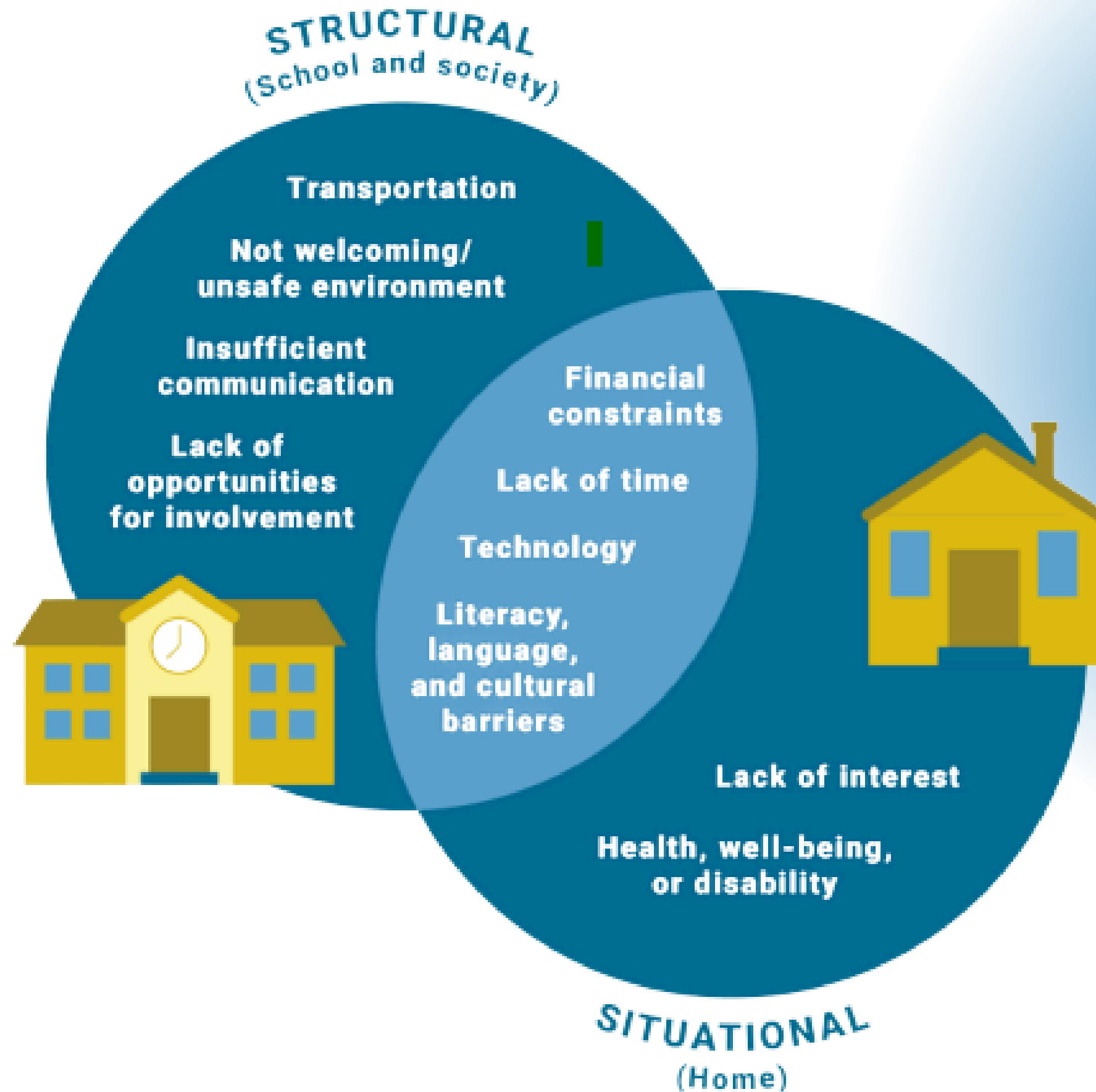
Philisophy,
Religion

Education

EXAMPLES OF BARRIERS TO ENGAGEMENT

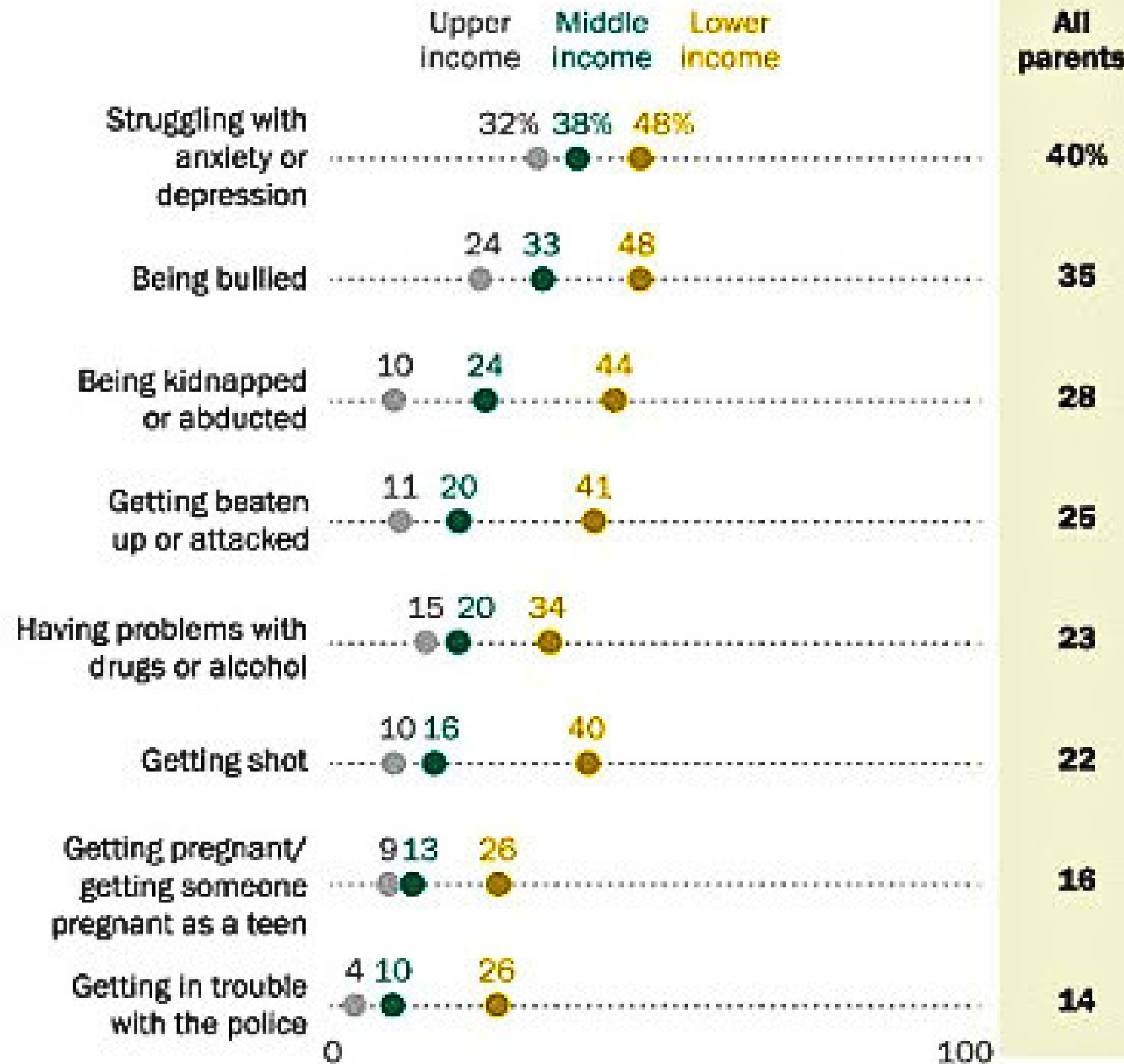


Barriers to family involvement and engagement



Parental worries vary widely by income

% of parents saying they are extremely or very worried about each of the following happening to any of their children at some point



88% Works Hard
86% Independent

REMEMBER

**CAREGIVERS ARE WHOLE
PEOPLE TOO!**



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• • • •

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACROSS LEVELS



In **elementary years**, involvement is linked to routines, literacy, and classroom participation.

In **middle and high school**, effective engagement shifts toward monitoring academics, supporting independence, and preparing for postsecondary pathways.

*IT'S CULTURE
SPECIFIC*



ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT DOMAINS

Identity Formation: Explore and develop their sense of self, values, and beliefs.

Physical Growth and Changes: Rapid physical growth and changes.

Emotional Intensity: Experience heightened emotions, including mood swings.

Moral Development: More complex understanding of morality and ethics, questioning societal norms while forming their own moral code.

Risk-Taking Behavior: Seek new experiences and independence.

Cognitive Development: Improvements in abstract thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to think critically about complex issues.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT DOMAINS

BUT THEY STILL NEED

WARMTH

Respect

CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE

STRATEGIES





TRUST

COMMITMENT TO BUILDING TRUST

HOW DO WE BUILD TRUST?

Respect. Do I listen to and value, what all families have to say?

Competence. Am I demonstrating to all families that I see them as competent and valuable caretakers and their child are competent?

Integrity. Do I keep my word with families?

Personal Regard. Do I show families that I value and care about them as people?

**WHERE DO PARENTS
SHOW UP?**





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***IF IT'S IMPORTANT TO THE ADOLESCENT,
IT SHOULD BE IMPORTANT TO THE CAREGIVER***

∴ ∴ ∴ ∴

RESPECT AND PERSONAL REGARD

Create Ceremony, Rites of Passage, Cultural Connections

Engage through Cultural Understanding and Interests

*Remember, **identity formation** is taking place- how can you support this?*

COMPETENCE

- Provide opportunities to **demystify** middle and high school engagement is more complex and more indirect.
- How middle school sets its students up for success in high school.
- Real-world examples connected to the future.
- Share resources with parents on how to support student learning.
- Highlight how your content area supports the launch into adulthood.
- Approach parents collaboratively: How can we work together to support your child?

INTEGRITY

- Coordinate specific opportunities for student leadership regarding family-school partnerships.
- Broader student collaboration and input in school decision-making and planning for students, with specific attention to family-school partnerships.
- Owning mistakes
- Apologizing when appropriate

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

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COMMITMENT TO BUILDING TRUST

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WHAT IF PARENTS WONT ENGAGE?

Programs that connect young people with mentors who share their interests and advocate for their goals and ambitions can promote positive socioemotional, academic, and health outcomes.

Youth and families may benefit from extra support to help mitigate the effects when these relationships are disrupted.

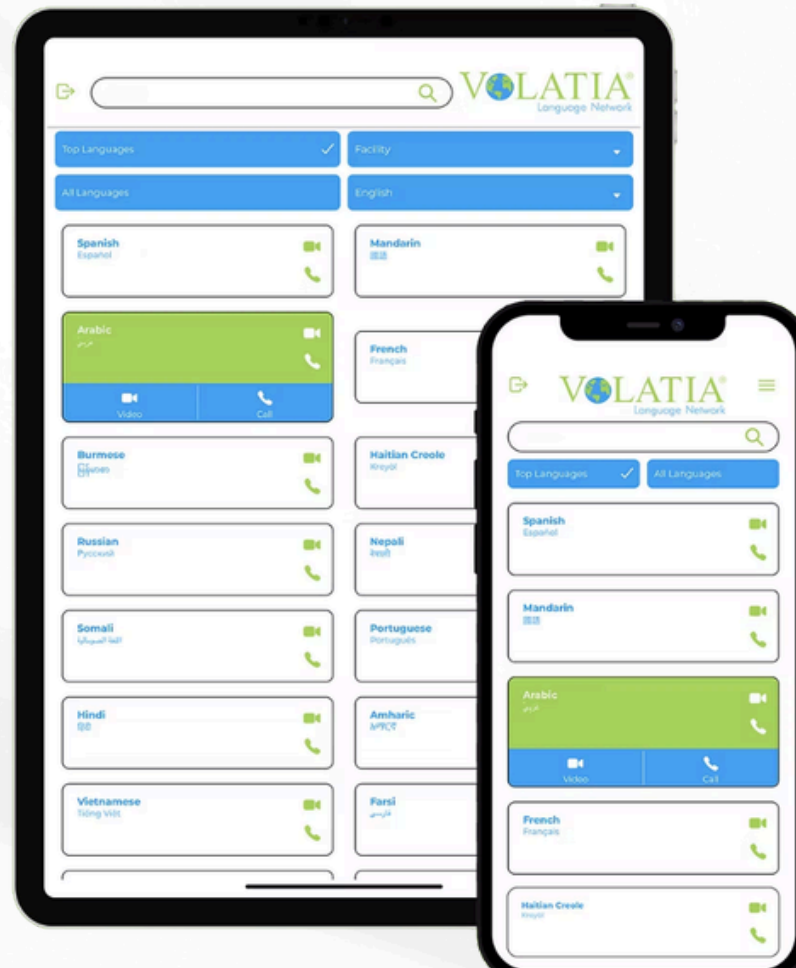
THE INVITATION REMAINS OPEN

COMMUNICATION



ParentSquare

VOLATIA[®]
Language Network



John Rolfe Middle School



Find Us

John Rolfe Middle School
6901 Messer Road
Henrico, VA 23231
P. [804-226-8730](tel:804-226-8730)

School Hours:
8:25 a.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Half-day dismissal time:
12:10 p.m.

Interpretive Service

804-409-2086

A NOTE ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT





LET'S CONNECT!

[SSKNIGHT@HENRICO.K12.VA.US](mailto:ssknight@henrico.k12.va.us)