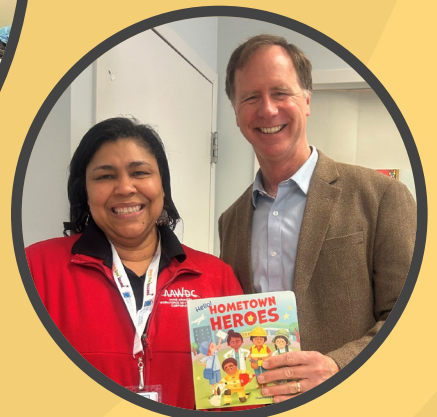




# Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence

# 2024-2025 Annual Report



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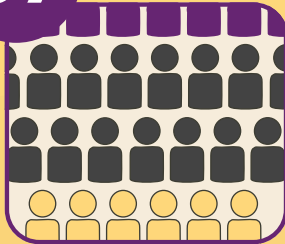
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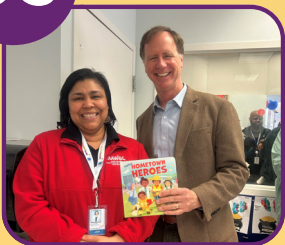
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# About AASCE



The Anne Arundel County Local Workforce Development Board, in partnership with Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, and Anne Arundel Community College, launched Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence under the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. One of the main goals of this initiative is to stretch and expand the minds of all middle school and high school students through career awareness, exposure, exploration, and planning. The ultimate outcome of the initiative is for students to gain an understanding of how their education connects to careers, which will help them to develop strategies for achieving education and career goals.

## Vision

Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence fosters a future where every student has the confidence, knowledge, resources, and connections to thrive professionally, be productive members of the workforce and make meaningful contributions to their communities..

## Mission

To empower and inspire students by enhancing their transferable skills, work ethic, and career readiness. Through personalized career coaching and tailored support, we guide middle and high school students in creating actionable career success plans that prepare them for a dynamic workforce.

# AASCE Accomplishments

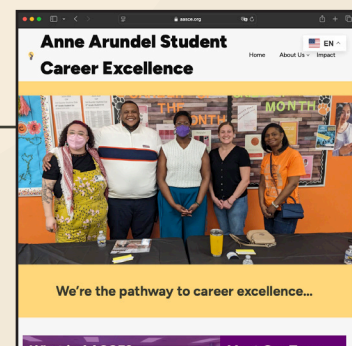
After a successful first year serving middle schools, AASCE expanded into high schools during the 2024-25 school year. Career exploration remained the primary goal in middle schools, while high school Career Coaches focused on enhancing college and career readiness.

**“A lot of students don’t have all this information, and I know they can finish school feeling unprepared for what’s coming next, so hopefully we can make a big difference.”**

- Tyler Bassett, AASCE Career Coach

## Launching the AASCE Website

In November 2024, the initiative launched [aasce.org](http://aasce.org) to inform the community about AASCE’s impact. During the academic year, a total of 752 users visited the website, and page views added up to 1,597.



## Advocating for Career Coaching Statewide

In March, AASCE staff, students, and partners such as the Maryland Workforce Association testified before several Maryland General Assembly committees to highlight the critical role of career counseling under the Blueprint for Maryland’s Future. Their efforts helped extend state funding for workforce board-led partnerships through FY28, protecting over 200 workforce jobs and sustaining vital student support statewide.



### Regional and National Presentations at:

- Southern Regional Education Board Conference
- Family Involvement Conference
- R.I.S.E. Conference

# Self & Career Exploration

## Career Days & Fairs

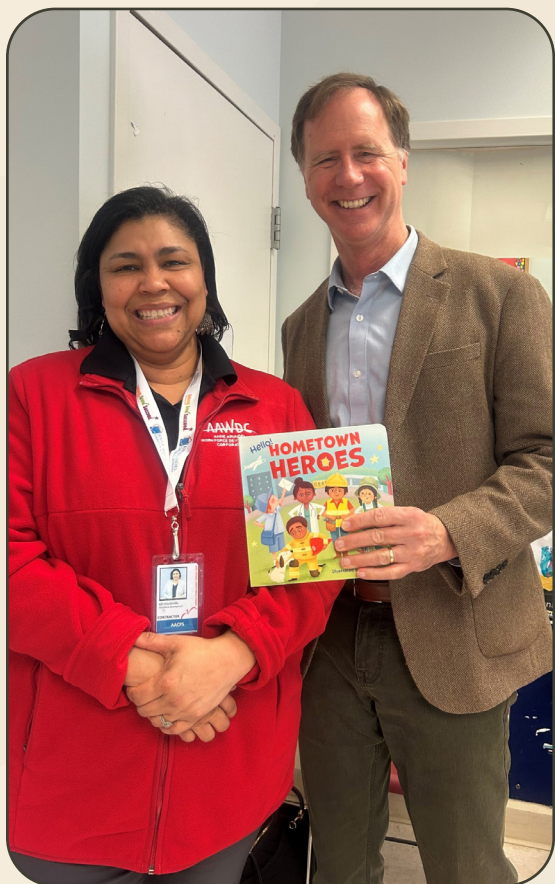
Career Coaches across the county partnered with school staff to organize Career Days that introduced students to hundreds of professionals from dozens of industries.

A standout event was the Central Middle School Career & College Fair, which grew from a four-hour, eighth-grade-only event in 2024 to a full-day experience reaching 1,200 students in 2025. Special activities included panels led by the Anne Arundel County Commission for Women and live music from the U.S. Navy Band.



**“Students had the opportunity to discuss, ask questions, and explore the paths panelists navigated—education, training, challenges, and sources of inspiration.”**

- Sharita Ali, AASCE Career Coach



## Field Trips

Many Career Coaches coordinated field trips for students to identify careers of interest and develop employability skills that will serve them in their education and the workplace.

### Highlights included:

- 22 students from Old Mill High, CAT-N, and Arundel High toured Maryland Public Television studios, learning about production roles and processes.
- Crofton Middle School students visited the James and Sylvia Earl Simulation to Advance Innovation and Learning Center (SAIL) at Luminis Health, practicing healthcare skills on advanced mannequins and connecting with medical professionals.
- 50 participants from the Teen Parent Education Program (TPEP) and the Department of Social Services ESL and GED classes took part in a Read Across America service activity at Anne Arundel County Department of Social Services, joined by County Executive Stuart Pittman.

# Skill Development



## Student Spotlight: Kezia Kyei-Boahen

Kezia, an eleventh-grade student at Chesapeake Science Point, self-published *Refined*, “an insightful collection of Christian poetry.” She credits her Career Coach for providing encouragement, marketing resources, and the support she needed to achieve her goal.

“Keep going and don’t delete that first draft! You could write someone’s favorite book!”

- Kezia Kyei-Boahen,  
Student at Chesapeake  
Science Point

## GRIT Lessons

In the first quarter, Career Coaches introduced sixth- and seventh-graders to the GRIT model—Growth, Resilience, Integrity, Tenacity—helping students build critical life and academic skills. Beyond the classroom, Career Coaches coordinated activities to help students understand how other people use GRIT. These included a motivational assembly at Crofton Middle School with Ty Nance, who shared how GRIT shaped his journey from childhood challenges to entrepreneurship, and a Corkran Middle School activity in which teachers shared personal stories of perseverance.

## Career Improv

At Chesapeake Science Point, the school’s Career Coach used improvisation to build soft skills. Students acted out workplace problem scenarios—such as handling an angry customer—then reflected on communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution skills used.

“Thank you for coming to speak with us about your career and how you’re using what we learn in real life.”

- Megan, Student at Chesapeake High

## Career Conversations

Chesapeake High School Career Coach revived the school’s Career Conversations programming, providing one-on-one student interviews with industry professionals.

## Entrepreneurship Expo

Career Coach Spencer Evans hosted an Entrepreneurship Expo where students developed business plans, presented to judges, and competed for prizes. All students received certificates celebrating their creativity and hard work.

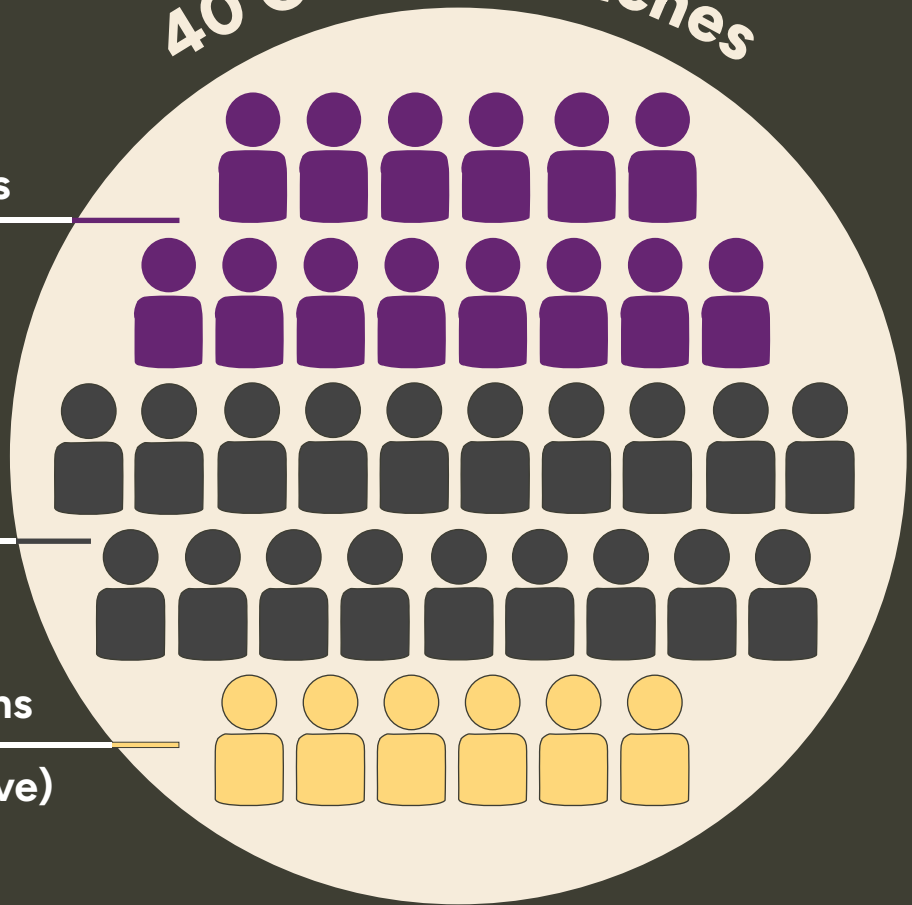


# 40 Career Coaches

14 High Schools

19 Middle Schools

6 Educational Options  
(Charter + Alternative)



## 17,805

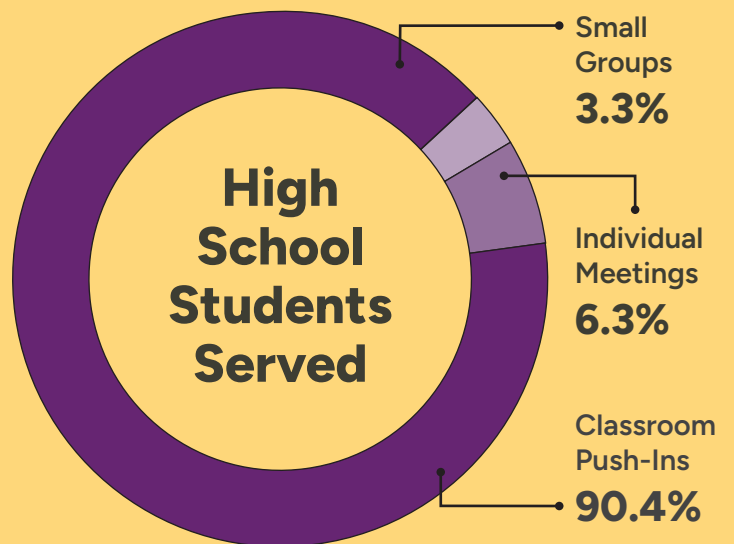
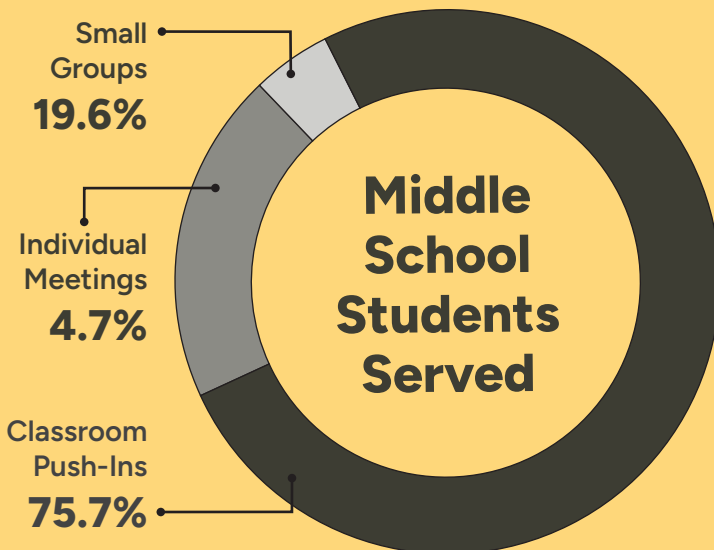
Middle School  
Students Served

## 27,804

High School  
Students Served

## 438

Businesses  
Engaged



# Education Pathways

## Chesapeake High School Internship/ Apprenticeship Preparation Fair

Career Coaches from Chesapeake High School and Northeast High School, in partnership with their shared Work-Based Learning Facilitator (WBLF), successfully hosted an Internship/Apprenticeship Preparation Fair for students interested in work-based learning opportunities. The team met with approximately 150 students to review program requirements, expectations, and the overall application process. To ensure readiness, students completed preparatory steps including interviews, a meeting with the WBLF to explore available opportunities, and scheduling follow-up meetings. These structured steps created a supportive and accessible pathway for students pursuing internships and apprenticeships.



## Alumni Guest Speakers

South River High School's Career Coach and counseling team invited alumni to speak about their post-graduation pathways. Students heard honest insights about transitioning from high school to college, work, and training programs.

**"It was nice to meet someone from around here that went to my school and even had the first job as me to see where they ended up."**

– Student at Chesapeake High



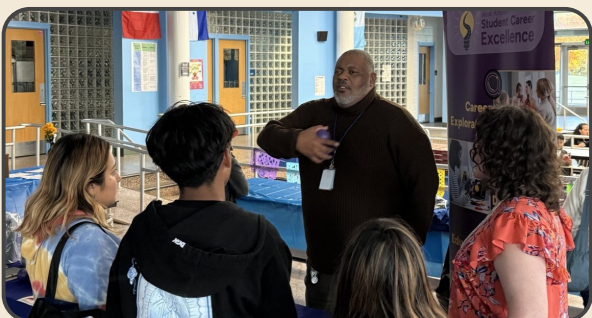
## Connecting Students to AAWDC Services

Old Mill High School's counseling department partnered with the school's Career Coach to support seniors without concrete post-secondary plans. The Career Coach introduced students to Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation's NEXTSuccess and FutureSuccess programs and assisted them with applications to ensure they had options after graduation.

# Engaging & Supporting Families

## Family Involvement Conference

The Family Involvement Conference was led by AACPS at Severn Run High School, where families attended workshops to understand how to support their children in preparing for careers. Workshop topics included “Classrooms Today, Careers Tomorrow” and “Bridging Dreams: Family Support in Student Career Development,” which was presented by Corkran Middle School’s Counseling Department Chair and Career Coach. Families received Shaw and Evan’s presentation well and were able to identify the differences between counseling and career coaching, along with how counselors and career coaches assist each other.



## Southern Middle School’s Hispanic Heritage Night

Southern Middle School’s Career Coach joined families for a community celebration, participating in activities and speaking with attendees about career pathways and AAWDC services.

## North County High Career & Resource Fair

Local organizations were invited to North County High School for a Career & Resource Fair to improve access to community resources. The North County High Career Coach tabled at the entrance to inform visitors about her work with students in school, along with connecting families to AAWDC’s other services.



**“I sat alongside some of our students here and participated in the activity and games portion of the event... One guest was interested in getting his CDL and a high schooler was interested in getting to know more information on how to apply to CAT-South.”**

- Daryl Rice, AASCE Career Coach

# Impact of Career Coaching

Career Coaching is more than preparing students for jobs—it helps young people understand themselves, gain confidence, build essential life skills, and imagine possibilities for their futures. By connecting academics to real-world opportunities, Career Coaches broaden students' perspectives and open doors.



**“[Our Career Coach] continues to do incredible work with our middle school students. The guidance and inspiration he provides at such a formative time in their lives [is] truly invaluable. By opening their minds to future possibilities and helping them discover their strengths, [the Career Coach] is shaping not only their careers but also their confidence and sense of purpose.”**

- Assistant Principal at Southern Middle School



Career Coaches also strengthen local workforce pathways by building community partnerships and beginning to prepare well-prepared job candidates. At Old Mill Middle South, the Career Coach established relationships with local barbers who now offer mentorship and hands-on learning to students interested in barbering.

# Looking Ahead

As Maryland continues to prioritize workforce readiness, economic competitiveness, and equitable access to opportunity, the Anne Arundel Student Career Excellence (AASCE) program remains committed to preparing students for successful transitions from education to career.

Entering its third year of implementation, AASCE is focused on deepening impact, expanding access, and strengthening connections between students, schools, and employers. Building on early successes, the program will pursue the following goals:



**Increase** small-group and individualized career coaching opportunities to provide students with personalized guidance tailored to their interests, strengths, and postsecondary goals. Expanded coaching will ensure students receive timely support in career planning, credential attainment, and decision-making.



**Identify** and support seniors who lack defined post-graduation plans, ensuring that no student leaves high school without a viable next step. Career coaches will work closely with school staff and families to connect these students to postsecondary education, training programs, apprenticeships, military options, or employment opportunities.



**Host** career days, career fairs, and employer engagement events that expose students to high-demand industries and real-world career pathways within Anne Arundel County and across Maryland. These events will emphasize local and regional workforce needs, helping students see clear connections between education and employment.



**Expand** field trips and hands-on career experiences, including job site visits, industry tours, and experiential learning opportunities. These activities allow students to explore careers firsthand, develop workplace skills, and make informed decisions about their futures.



**Strengthen** partnerships with local businesses and industries to ensure programming remains responsive to employer needs and workforce trends. Expanded partnerships will increase opportunities for mentorship, internships, work-based learning, and early talent pipeline development.

Through these strategic priorities, AASCE continues to serve as a scalable, school-based workforce development model that supports students and connects the educational system with Maryland's evolving labor market. Continued investment in AASCE strengthens the state's talent pipeline, supports economic growth, and ensures that students graduate prepared for meaningful careers and long-term success.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:



VISIT US AT:

[www.aasce.org](http://www.aasce.org)

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