

  
CITY SCHOOLS  
**AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING**

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**Item Briefing Number:** VII-J

**Meeting Date:** May 10, 2021

**Subject:** Application for *VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award*

**Background:** The *VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness* award seeks to recognize Virginia school divisions who have achieved excellence in workforce readiness through an innovative program/project within the school community with emphasis on communication and collaboration with the business community; student engagement with the business community; or student entrepreneurial activities.

**Discussion:** Staunton City Schools has recently formed a strong partnership with Project Grows to develop a Youth Leaders in Agriculture Program. The YLA program directly impacts students and the broader community through mentorship and hands-on learning, greater access to food, food and environmental education, and vocational training. Students from Staunton High School are participating in farm work and leadership development workshops, engaging in lessons on permaculture and agroecology, assisting with K-12 food education for younger students, and taking field trips in the community to learn about careers in our local food system.

**Suggested Motion:** I move that the School Board authorize the application for the *VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award*.