OUR CHALLENGE
Many students are leaving high school not fully prepared for employment and college, while local businesses struggle to hire and retain qualified employees. The heart of the issue is that our youth need to reach their full potential and our businesses need to fill positions with talented and skilled employees.

OUR RESPONSE
VPP’s high-engagement investment style blends a private equity model for investing with time-proven best practices from foundations and nonprofits. This allows us to help create long-term systematic change. We are working in partnership with Prince George’s County Administration, public schools, local business leaders, philanthropy and a number of nonprofit organizations to create a holistic, collaborative and sustainable strategy.

OUR PLAN
We are implementing a three-pronged strategy across three high schools: Suitland, High Point and Oxon Hill.

DURING THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR
2,970 students served through Ready for Work's three strategies

- Strengthen Career and Technical Education Programs
- Teach Foundational Life Skills
- Provide Internships and Jobs
INVEST IN READY FOR WORK
Our work depends on the resources of businesses, philanthropy, nonprofits and government. Together we can achieve our bold vision to help more young people to graduate with the skills and education that they need to be successful. Want to learn more about this investment opportunity? Contact Amy Selco at aselco@vppartners.org or 202-263-4791.

Strengthen Career and Technical Education (CTE) so more students can graduate career and college ready. Prince George’s County Public Schools has integrated CTE programs into all high schools.

We will:
• Partner with TFA-DC Region to improve academic achievement;
• Build capacity of CTE programs to enhance technical skill development and expand enrollment numbers so more students can graduate career and college ready; and
• Partner with industry representatives who will serve on CTE advisory boards. These boards help to make sure the curriculum and learning experiences are current and relevant.

Integrate youthCONNECT into the high schools so students can develop foundational life skills. youthCONNECT is a group of high-performing nonprofits that collaborate with the schools to improve students’ readiness for employment and postsecondary education. The nonprofits we pick have undergone a rigorous selection process, and they are the best at what they do.

These nonprofits coach students on:
• Developing career goals;
• Time management;
• Appropriate behaviors in the work environment; and
• Applying to college and technical education programs.

Give students real work experiences before they graduate. When young people get connected to job experiences at an early age, they are more likely to be employed and stay employed as adults. We are partnering with business leaders and employers to make certain the skills and competencies students are learning are relevant.