

Virginia Space Grant Consortium – 2026 Budget Amendment Background

Request: *Building the Aerospace Skilled Technical Workforce through a Statewide Partnership of Industry, Academic, Federal, and Work Force Organization Stakeholders*

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HB 30 - Item 131 #6h - Patrons: Delegate David Reid; Senator Mamie Locke

<https://budget.lis.virginia.gov/amendment/2026/1/HB30/Introduced/MR/131/6h/>

The Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) is leading the Virginia Hub for Building the Aerospace Skilled Technical Workforce (Hub). The Hub includes industry partners, education institutions and high schools, state education and workforce development agencies, NASA, other federal partners, and economic development organizations. The Hub will be driven by industry partners and will develop and expand CTE and community college courses, certificates, academic pathways, and work-based learning experiences to address employer needs for skilled technical workers in aerospace.

Commonwealth funding will support VSGC and Hub partners to facilitate regional partnerships between high school CTE programs, community colleges, industry, economic and workforce development organizations, and other stakeholders to build and scale-up successful aerospace technician programs.

Targeted Aerospace Sectors:

- Commercial Space
- Advanced Air Mobility and Drones
- Advanced/Precision Manufacturing
- Aircraft Maintenance
- Airport Operations
- Cybersecurity
- Artificial Intelligence

Key Project Components:

- Employer Workforce Needs Assessment
- Academic Pathways with Dual-enrollment, Industry Certifications, and Stackable Credentials
- Work-based Learning Experiences – Internships, Job Shadowing, and Service-Learning
- Apprenticeship Programs (Youth, Pre-apprenticeships, Registered Apprenticeships)
- Industry-Aligned Micro-credentials/Digital Badges
- Student Competitions
- Student Support Services, Mentoring, and Scholarships
- Educator Externships
- Career Awareness Events

About Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC):

VSGC is a coalition of NASA centers, Virginia universities, Virginia Community College System, state agencies, and other partners focused on STEM workforce development, education, and research. VSGC received a planning grant from NASA to build partnerships and develop the Hub concept. Commonwealth funding will be leveraged by NASA funding and other sources.