SUFFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#SPSCreatesAchievers

STEM Academy at Booker T. Washington

April 10, 2025

Suffolk Public Schools

AGENDA

- SABTW Background, Purpose, and Structure
- SABTW Curriculum and Lab School Design Process
- SABTW 2025-2026 Enrollment and Next Steps

ABOUT US

The STEM Academy at Booker T. Washington (SABTW) revolutionizes education for our youngest learners by promoting experiential learning led by master educators. SABTW focuses on community and field-based learning to address real-world issues, preparing students for an innovative and STEM-focused future. The Academy is an inclusive environment catering to diverse learning styles and backgrounds.

@SABTW_ODULab

ODU SABTW

Program Launch Year

Opening

2025-2026

Grade Levels

K-5

Enrollment

20 students per grade

120 students total

SABTW Leadership in Partnership with Old Dominion University

Executive Director & Associate Director	Program Manager	SABTW Instructional Specialist & Building Principal

Purpose

The lab school will foster innovation and collaboration, uniting students, educators, and community partners to explore new teaching methods. It will emphasize creativity, critical thinking, and real-world learning, preparing students for future success while serving as a model for educational excellence.

Our Why

Mission:

A commitment to excellence in education, empowering students through active agency and voice in their learning.

Vision:

Fostering an environment where experimentation with pedagogical approaches and experiential learning drives innovation, supported by continuous professional learning

Key Components of our Promising Practice

- **Design Thinking:** The curriculum is grounded in the design thinking framework, fostering creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving by engaging students in iterative, hands-on activities that emphasize empathy, ideation, prototyping, and testing.
- **Comprehensive Alignment:** The curriculum will be meticulously aligned with all Virginia Standards of Learning (SOLs), ensuring that each standard is thoroughly addressed to support consistent student achievement across grade levels.

Key Components of our Promising Practice

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** Lessons will be designed to integrate multiple subject areas, such as science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM), creating meaningful connections and reinforcing concepts across disciplines.

- **Student-Centered:** The curriculum will emphasize active engagement and prioritize student voice and choice, encouraging learners to take ownership of their education and develop skills like collaboration, adaptability, and self-direction.

Curriculum

- STEM-focused curriculum
- Emphasis on hands-on learning, real-world applications, and interdisciplinary connections
- Opportunities for students to participate in STEM competitions, field trips, internships, and partnerships with local businesses and universities

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY
PLTW

CURRICULUM

- Our Instructional Resource Designers are actively engaged in the curriculum writing process, developing high-quality instructional materials to enhance student learning.

Design Studios and STEM Lab

Information Nights

January 16 & 28, 2025

Enrollment and Application Process

- Lottery opened

  February 3, 2025

- Lottery closed

  February 28, 2025

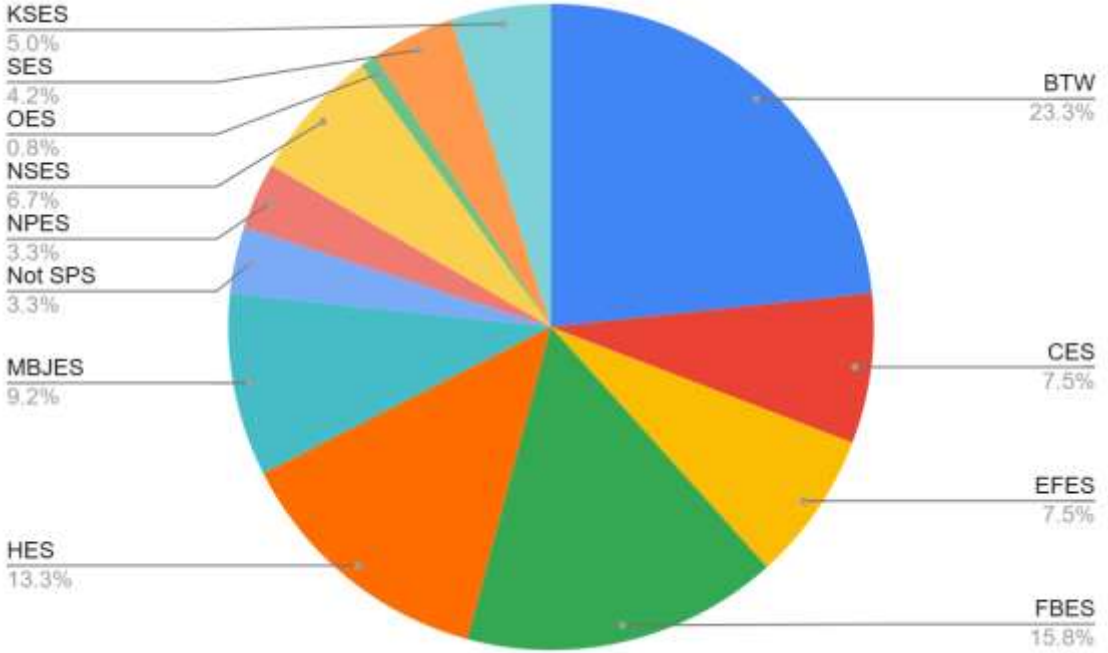
- Family letters were sent home

  March 3, 2025

We used the ODU procured system Lotterease to manage our lottery process; ensuring a fair, transparent, and efficient selection and waitlist management for all applicants.

2025-2026 Student Enrollment

BTW	28
CES	9
EFES	9
FBES	19
HES	16
MBJES	11
Not SPS	4
NPES	4
NSES	8
OES	1
SES	5
KSES	6
Total	120




Next Steps

Hire Instructional Designers

We are currently hiring STEM Academy Instructional Designers to fill these positions. These educators will receive training in Project Lead The Way (PLTW) and design thinking pedagogy, equipping them to provide engaging, hands-on learning experiences. They will guide students through real-world STEM challenges while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, inspiring the next generation of leaders and innovators.

Questions?

STEM ACADEMY at Booker T. Washington
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