

Haverhill Public-Private Partnership (HP3)

HP3 is a community public-private partnership focused on one goal - every Haverhill public school student transitions to a true living wage job.

This program is based on the premise that in a period of unprecedented technological and economic change we need to look at new ways to facilitate student success beyond preparing them for college and careers. HP3 is specifically designed to structure a holistic community effort that integrates existing initiatives, establishes a linkage between the school system, the institutions that develop certain skills, and the business community, and systemically helps address obstacles such as funding, transportation, and mentor support.

Membership includes the city administration, city council, school system, local elected officials, business community, social organizations, and other institutions. The program is managed by a Steering Group consisting of community representatives. Functional Area Workgroups subordinate to the Steering Group develop and oversee programs in the areas of mentoring, transportation augmentation, and briefings to students and parents.

The partnership performs these specific tasks to achieve the stated goal:

- Brief students and parents. Recurring briefings presented to students and parents at all middle schools and the high school to ensure students and parents understand the living wage career opportunities available, the specific requirements and characteristics of each career path, and the resources available to facilitate success. Multiple briefs will be conducted in the evenings, on weekends and at select community events to reach all students and parents.
- Provide tools to facilitate success. The HP3 website provides tools to help identify desirable career fields based on individual interests and skills, help develop a career plan, help understand the training/educational requirements for certain career fields and occupations, and find specific living wage jobs.
- Provide mentors. A formal mentor program is under development to ensure that every Haverhill public school student/graduate requiring external assistance receives support from a trained and effective mentor.
- Augment public transportation. The Transportation Workgroup is developing a concept to eliminate transportation as a primary obstacle to achieving a living wage job. The program will involve a holistic process that employs transportation network companies (Uber/Lyft, Zipcar...), local taxi services, underutilized existing assets, and potentially contract services.
- Systemically identify skills increasingly in demand. The partnership, with linkages to the business community and academic institutions, will serve as a forum to track technological change and identify skillsets and occupations in demand over time.
- Assess and adjust the effort. Once a year the partnership will assess progress and adjust the effort, to include potentially addressing new obstacles not yet fully appreciated. The primary measure of success is the percentage of Haverhill graduates that have actually transitioned to living wage jobs.