



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Halifax County, NC – May 20, 2022**  
*RRVEC Partners With the NCSSM*

**Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium Partners With the North Carolina School of  
Science and Mathematics**



The Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium (RRVEC) met on May 11, 2022. The RRVEC are six small, rural, and economically challenged public school districts in northeastern North Carolina (Halifax, Bertie, Hertford, Weldon, Northampton, and Warren) that have come together on behalf of the children and families they serve. Its purpose is to utilize and maximize its energy, expertise, passion, and resources to achieve its mission.

The Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium has partnered with the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) to provide rigorous courses for its students. Superintendent Dr. Cunningham, who serves as President of the RRVEC, states, "In Northeastern NC, partnerships are essential to creating a supportive and positive learning environment to address the needs of the whole student." NCSSM works hand-in-hand with schools across North Carolina, partnering to meet the needs of Local Education Agencies and individual students with courses and other support. "All six school districts of the RRVEC are committed to their students' success. I am excited for NCSSM to learn with and learn from the educational leaders and the students of RRVEC to provide academically rigorous courses and experiences through distance education courses and summer programs!" said Dr. Jamie Lathan, Vice Chancellor for Extended Learning.

"One of the major things that the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics have done for the students of Bertie County is exposing them to a more rigorous curriculum that we cannot offer due to budget restrictions and access to teachers of the content. It has helped us expose our kids and maximize our resources to provide the students with what they need," said Dr. Otis Smallwood, Superintendent of Bertie County Schools.

"The Roanoke River Valley Education Consortium is excited to partner with the NCSSM. There are already a couple of districts in the area that are taking advantage of it. We believe that expanding will give our students more opportunities. In Hertford County, we use the motto, *All in For Learning*. We see that as another partner with some skin in the game to help our students get what they need to be successful. I am excited about this partnership", said Dr. William Wright, Superintendent of Hertford County Public Schools. Through interactive video conferencing studios and expertise in STEM education for talented students, the NCSSM helps public schools offer courses in hard-to-staff subject areas. It's a low- to no-cost way to support STEM goals and offer advanced coursework to smaller groups of students.