



For More Information Contact: Jayna Eller, (757) 889-9107 or 773-1250 [jayna.eller@whro.org](mailto:jayna.eller@whro.org)  
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### **WHRO Education Receives Grant to Fund New STEM Van to Teach Math, Critical Thinking and Use of Technology in Learning**

WHRO Public Media and Education is pleased to announce it has received a \$40,000 grant from Trustees of the Beazley Foundation for a van to teach science, technology, engineering and math. The van will feature a mobile iPad lab and visit area schools, public libraries and community centers and lead children playing science, engineering and math games from [pbskids.org/lab](http://pbskids.org/lab).

WHRO currently serves children in the Hampton Roads community with the PBS Kids Raising Readers Literacy Van, a brightly-colored vehicle featuring children's favorite PBS characters that visits schools, libraries and food banks throughout our broadcast region. Inside the van, children can find age appropriate books and games. WHRO staff read to children, give them books, and have them make the Reading Pledge. The Raising Readers Van made over 100 visits over the past year.

"More than 50 percent of children ages 2 to 5 in the U.S. do not attend formal pre-K and are cared for at home," said Bert Schmidt, President and CEO of WHRO. "We also know that 48 percent of children under six also live in low income families. Our PBS Raising Readers Literacy Van, and the new STEM van, will help children with the greatest need in our community prepare for success in school, which also leads to success in life. For many of the children we serve, we are giving them their very first book."

For more information on bringing WHRO's Raising Readers Literacy or STEM Van to your school or child care center, contact WHRO at (757) 889-9107.

**About WHRO:** Since it's founding in 1961 to support education, WHRO has employed creativity and technology to serve the residents of southeast Virginia in its mission to educate, inform and entertain viewers and listeners of WHRO's four public television and eight public radio stations. Owned by 19 southeastern Virginia school divisions, WHRO also delivers online educational and new media services to 286,000 students and 25,000 educators per month.

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