



Community REPORT 2023





Superintendent

Dr. Frank Rodriguez

Prior to beginning his tenure as Beaufort County School District Superintendent, Dr. Rodriguez spent 26 years serving the South Florida education community in a variety of capacities: as a secondary Social Studies teacher; as a program coordinator for the Florida Department of Education; and in the Palm Beach County schools as an elementary and secondary principal, Area Director of Transformation Schools, Assistant Superintendent over six district departments, Area Superintendent, and Regional Superintendent.

The **MISSION** of the Beaufort County School District, through a personalized learning approach, will prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace.

Our **VISION** is to work with families and our diverse community to ensure that students perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, and engaging.

Board of Education



2021-22 School Board



Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Melvin Campbell, Tricia Fidrych, Col. Richard Geier, Christina Gwozdz M.D. (Interim Chair November/December 2022), Angela Middleton (Secretary), Cathy Robine (Vice-Chair), William Smith, David Striebinger (Chair - January 2021-October 2022), Rachel Wisnefski Ph.D.

2022-23 School Board



Ingrid Boatright, Earl Campbell, Carlton Dallas, Col. Richard Geier (Vice-Chair), Chloe Gordon, Christina Gwozdz M.D. (Chair), Elizabeth Hey, Angela Middleton (Secretary), Victor Ney, William Smith, Rachel Wisnefski Ph.D.

The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability. The Board serves and is accountable to the community, primarily by ensuring that the District achieves the results described in the Board's Student Results Policies and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board's Operational Expectations Policies.

BCSD Board of Education legislative agenda items include a focus on the school start date; teacher salaries; fully funded state mandates; SROs and mental health initiatives; education funding reform; and state funded full-day Prekindergarten for economically disadvantaged students.

Data

Of BCSD's **21,000 +** Students...



58.5% are at or below the Poverty Index



4,438 are English Language Learners



72% of AP students scored a 3 or higher on AP exams



87.2% Graduate on time



75% of Graduates are Career and College Ready

BCSD Class of 2023 (1,368 Graduates) earned:

362 STEM Diplomas

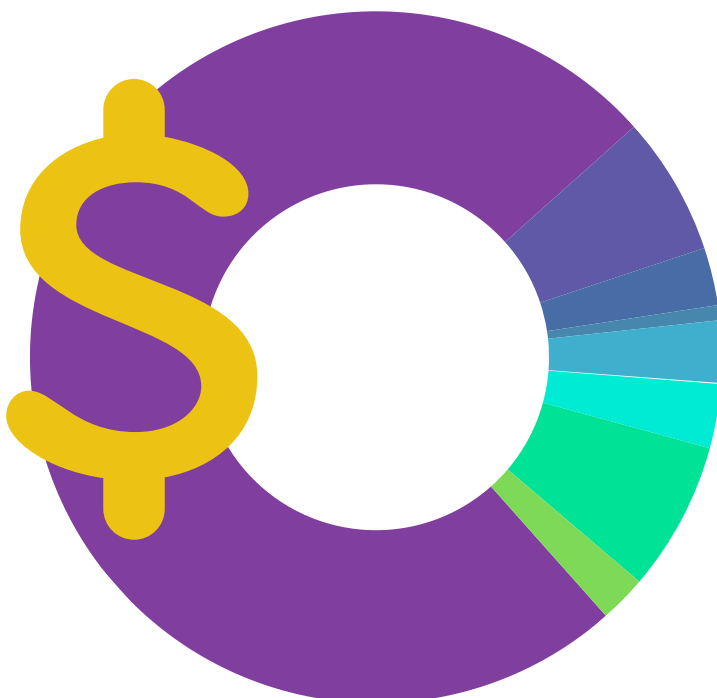
282 Honors Seal of Distinction

91 Seals of Bilingualism

and \$37,943,719 in Scholarships

FY2022-2023 Expenditures

75% of BCSD's Budget is spent on Instructional Services and Support.



Instructional Services & Support	75%
District Support (incl. School Board)	6.6%
Transportation	2.5%
Academy of Career Excellence	0.6%
Charter School	3.4%
Food Service	(< 0.05%)
Utilities	3.0%
Facilities Maintenance	6.8%
Technology	2.1%

South Carolina School Report Cards

The South Carolina Report Card measures progress of schools toward the goals of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. These goals include Academic Success, Preparing for Success, Multi-Lingual Learner Growth, School Climate, Graduation Rate, and producing graduates that are College and/or Career Ready.

The School Report Cards, which are based on South Carolina's education accountability system, are required for all elementary, middle, and high schools which receive overall ratings based on a 100-point scale. The ratings follow terms outlined in state law: Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, and Unsatisfactory.

SC Graded Excellent Schools

An Excellent rating is defined as school performance that **substantially exceeds** the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate.



SC Graded Good Schools

A Good rating is defined as school performance that **exceeds** the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.



Teaching & Learning

Academic Programs & School Choice

At BCSD, we know that not all students learn in the same way. Because of this, we give our families a voice and an opportunity to find a learning environment that best suits their student's individual needs. We are able to do this through offering school choice options, which make our programs accessible to all students in the district. Along with our excellent neighborhood schools, BCSD offers Montessori programs, Early College options, Advanced Placement, Cambridge Academy, and International Baccalaureate programs. Additionally, we now offer a new academy program - The MedTech7 Magnet program - in seven district schools. This program features a specialized, theme-based curriculum that prepares students for a future in either the medical or technology field.

Multilingual Learners (ML)

The Multilingual Learners Program (MLP) prepares students for academic success. Beaufort County School District has a team of educators who work with families to identify and assess students whose native or home language is not English. Once students have been assessed, we continue to monitor their academic progress as part of an ongoing process. Beaufort County School District dedicates its resources and energy to providing a quality education for all students. Students with a heritage or home



language other than English have equal access to all district programs and services regardless of whether the family is a permanent resident, new to our country, or new to our district.



Our Welcome Center simplifies the identification of the appropriate academic instruction for Multilingual Learners according to federal and state laws, Beaufort County School Board policies, and the BCSD's mission and vision. The Welcome Center ensures that all students are given equal access to all educational services necessary to meet their academic success goals as quickly as possible. BCSD welcomes all student enrollment.

ML stats

The top three non-English languages spoken by BCSD families during the 2022-23 school year were Spanish, Mandarin, and Vietnamese

Teaching & Learning

PreK/Early Childhood

The Office of Early Childhood Education strives to provide a comprehensive, community-based approach to school readiness in Beaufort County through quality early childhood education, family literacy, and parent education. Through collaborative partnerships with several community family support agencies and childcare providers, the district focuses to improve the lives of preschool age children so that they can take full advantage of educational opportunities. Early childhood programs and initiatives improve the effectiveness of parents as the primary teachers of their children, promote and encourage language, intellectual growth, and physical social-emotional skills.



Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center

Early Childhood Data Points

The Traveling Preschool Bus made 65 visits, serving 660 children and 488 families

The Parents As Teachers Program served 127 families and 202 children

BCSD's Child Find Program offered developmental screening to 1,096 children (ages: 3-5)

Traveling Preschool Bus

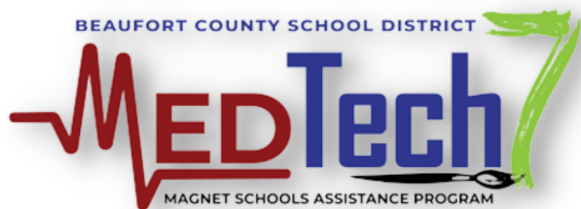
The traveling preschool bus is a collaborative outreach program funded by Title I and Together for Beaufort providing early childhood learning centers and parent education services to rural areas which are currently underserved. Opportunities are provided for children and their parents, Pre-K teachers, and local area caregivers to enjoy special monthly activities, distribution of free books, lesson plans, parenting materials, and more. Sites include a number of churches, housing projects, area child care centers, area elementary schools, Head Start, Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC), KidFest, and more.



Teaching & Learning

MSAP/MedTech7

The Beaufort County School District was awarded a \$12.8 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant. The grant project, named MedTech7, was in year two of its five-year duration during the 2022-2023 school year. MedTech7 focuses on seven schools in the Beaufort and Whale Branch clusters, each of which will start full implementation of a schoolwide STEAM model as well as medical and cybersecurity technology K-12 magnet pathways during the 2023-2024 school year. MedTech7 partners with various organizations to offer innovative technology and instructional approaches to students and teachers, and it also offers a medical, technology, and arts-themed summer camp to district students free of charge.



Their Success is Our Success!

Congratulations to Corel Nettles, who earned his high school equivalency diploma in March, 2023. He succeeded despite many challenges such as lack of transportation, no identification, and, according to Corel, no one who believed in him. He persevered with the help of the adult education staff, especially his teacher Mrs. Darien. He has enlisted in the United States Army. Great work, Corel! We are proud of you.



Corel Nettles and Mrs. Darien



Angela Shaw and Mrs. Mickie

Angela Shaw also earned her high school equivalency diploma. She credits Mrs. Mickie, along with the staff of Beaufort County Adult Education, for encouraging her every step of the way in her journey. She says that she was provided with the proper resources and material to succeed, and she further states, "We as students need to take advantage of the help that is given to us by our teachers, they are there to help us reach our goal. When you absolutely believe in yourself, nothing will stop you." Angela is not sure of her future goals, but she wants to continue her education at college. Great work and congratulations, Angela

Adult Education

Adult Education offers programs to adults in the community to earn their GED and High School Diploma (HSD), and gain further knowledge to help them advance in the work force.

GED and HSD classes are also offered online, with free access to websites such as Essential Education, Burlington English and Best Plus Software (for ESL students), Aztec Software, and the NorthStar Digital Literacy Program. Adult Ed is also a Pearson Vue-Authorized Test Center.

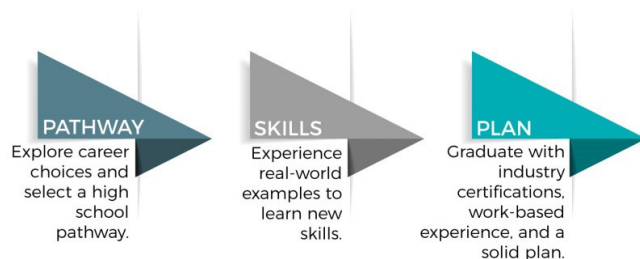
During the 2022-23 academic year, 97 graduates received a High School Equivalency Diploma (GED) or a High School Diploma.

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Career and Technical Education serves students in grades 6-12 through state-approved course offerings leading to career concentrations, work-based learning opportunities, and/or industry credentials. Whether planning to attend a four-year university, a technical college, or being prepared to enter the workplace, CTE courses and pathways can help students graduate college and career ready.

BCSD's goal is for CTE students to graduate with a diploma PLUS experiences which help make a more effective transition after high school graduation. Experiences include:

- Leadership opportunities in Career Technical Student Organizations through competitive events and regional and state offices;
- Skill development through Industry Certifications;
- WIN/Work Keys Proficiency;
- Business experience through Work-Based Learning/Internships/Capstone Classes; and
- Early college credits through Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment.



Beaufort Jasper Academy for Career Excellence (ACE)

The Academy for Career Excellence prepares high school students to become qualified workforce members by offering Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs leading to industry certifications, technical skills attainment, and soft skills training necessary to support current regional and national business needs.



Programs offered at ACE include:

Culinary Arts • Health Sciences • Law Enforcement • Marine Technology • Welding • Automotive Technology • Barbering & Cosmetology • Construction & Electrical • Emergency Medical Services

Request a service!



Did you know that BJACE barbering, construction, cosmetology, and nail tech students are taking appointments? Scan the QR code to schedule your service today! (click "Continue to Form" located at the bottom-right of the window.)

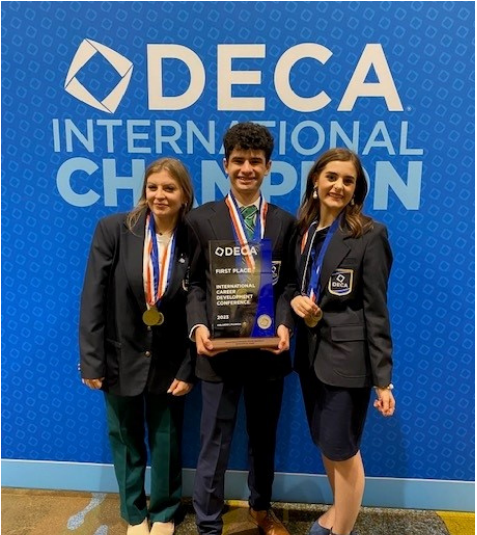
Need help with boat or vehicle repairs? Not a problem. Scan the QR code and set up an appointment with a BCJACE (click "Continue to Form" located at the bottom-right of the window.)



Student Clubs & Activities



BCSD schools offer a variety of clubs and activities for student enrichment.



Workforce Excellence

Finance Awards

Over the past 20+ years, BCSD has never received a negative finding in any of its annual independent audits. In addition, the District's finance staff has earned a national award for excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association for 30 consecutive years. Beaufort County School District continues to maintain an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service. This outstanding rating allows the district and taxpayers the benefit of low interest rates on school bonds.

Safety & Security


One of our top priorities as a school district is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Beaufort County School Districts' highly-trained safety team works collaboratively with school staff, community partners, and local law enforcement to provide a safe learning environment for our 21,000+ students in every classroom, every day.

BCSD has Security Resource Officers (SROs) at all middle and high schools. As the state continues to fund two SROs per year, BCSD plans to add them to elementary schools. In the meantime, BCSD has armed security guards at all elementary schools.

The District Crisis Prevention Team conducted, coordinated, and participated in over 145 crisis prevention trainings with District and School Crisis Team members, faculty, staff, students, community partners, and First Responders to ensure all parties are collaboratively trained for multiple scenarios in order to provide effective protection and care to BCSD students, staff, visitors, and facilities during emergencies.

#YouMatterBCSD

BCSD provides staff with quality mental healthcare accessed remotely in partnership with HelloHero. HelloHero is a HIPAA-compliant platform employing licensed mental health professionals dedicated to serving BCSD staff members. Also under the #YouMatterBCSD initiative, the district provided free childcare and will continue to do so for the school year.




#YouMatterBCSD

A DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVE TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEES THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS AND HELLOHERO

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT- WHEN AND HOW YOU NEED IT!

HelloHero is a HIPAA-compliant platform employing licensed mental health professionals dedicated to serving you, our BCSD staff members.





Workforce Excellence

2022-2023 Employee Recognitions

**Michelle Sackman,
BES**

Elementary Principal
of the Year

**Brian Ryman,
RRA**

Secondary
Principal
of the Year

**Cynthia Lazier,
RCES**

Elementary
Assistant Principal
of the Year

**Kyctrell Swinton-
Atkins, WBMS**

Secondary
Assistant Principal
of the Year

**Adam Marcinkoski,
BES**

Palmetto Pride
Volunteer of the
Year

**Jodi Knorr,
MOES**

Support Staff
of the Year

**Dr. LaVerne Stewart
HHIMS**

District Teacher
of the Year

**Mauriana Sciallo,
PVES**

Induction Teacher
of the Year

**Can'da'ce Washington
BRES**

District School
Counselor of the Year

Community Engagement

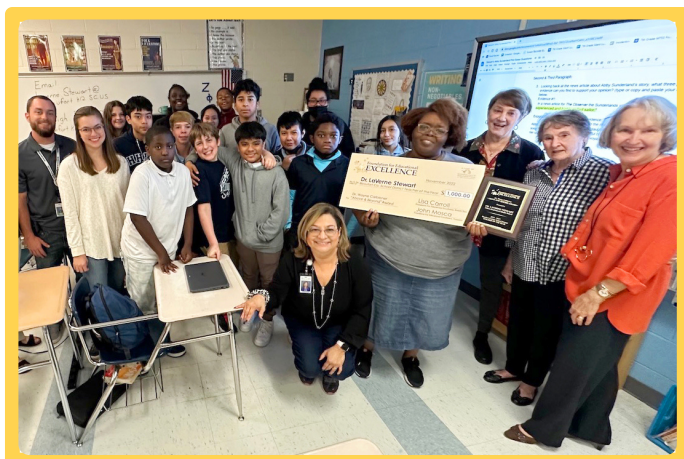
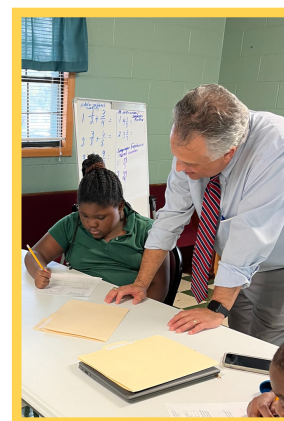


The Foundation for Educational Excellence was established by the Beaufort County School District in 2007 to fund Innovative Teacher Grants that support student enrichment activities and projects that exceed regular school budgets. The Foundation for Educational Excellence awards Innovative Teacher grants (up to \$750 per classroom) and School Resource grants (up to \$4,000 for school wide potential use) once a year in the fall. Other special grants given throughout the year include: Student Enrichment grants, Above & Beyond Teacher of the Year Recognition grants, and Induction Teacher Grants.



Extended Learning

BCSD commenced extended learning partnerships with our community partners, serving over 300 students across 12 sites, and the program is growing.



Accomplishments • • • • •

Beaufort County School District students, parents, employees, and community members continue to embark on academic recovery efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on student achievement.

This is a challenge that districts across the state and nation face and that BCSD continued to address this past school year by aligning resources to students' instructional needs. During the 2022-23 school year, BCSD schools achieved:



- Three of the district's high schools are ranked in South Carolina's Top 35 by U.S. News and World Report magazine, and all six are ranked in the state's top half.
- Seven Beaufort County School District students were offered the prestigious National Merit Scholarship, having been judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.
- Under the leadership of Superintendent Frank Rodriguez, student literacy test scores on state assessments are the highest in the district's history. Our success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, employees, and community members.
- The district has seen substantial improvement in the bi-literacy assessment in 2023. Last year, BCSD was ranked sixteenth in the state. This year, the district is ranked third. The bi-literacy assessment tested French, German, Russian and Spanish languages.
- This year, Whale Branch Early College High School was awarded as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.

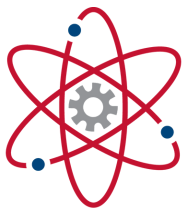
Accomplishments



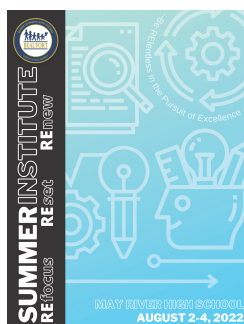
Advancement via Individual Determination



**Cambridge
Assessment
International
Education**



PROJECT LEAD THE WAY
PLTW



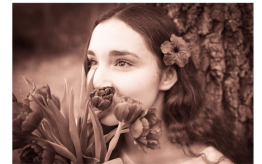
- Bluffton High School took first place at the DECA International Career Development Competition (ICDC), an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges globally.
- Beaufort Middle School was re-certified as an ABC school and added a new elective course called AVID for seventh and eighth graders. AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, and it helps students get college and career ready.
- May River High School and Robert Smalls International Academy kicked off their first year of providing students with prestigious international academic programming that prepares them for the rigor of college. The Cambridge International Secondary Program, part of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, is offered for students ages 11 to 19. Battery Creek High School will be kicking off their third year of the curriculum this fall.
- Mossy Oaks and Whale Branch Elementary schools were awarded a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) grant to cover teacher training to launch this program that provides engaging and firsthand learning experiences for MedTech 7 students at these schools.
- Over one thousand educators and support staff registered for this year's Summer Institute professional development event organized by the District. Approximately two hundred sessions were offered to attendees over the course of three days.

Academics & Arts

Students from Hilton Head Island High and May River High schools were recognized in the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. Camden Bernstein's photo also placed second in the Drexel Photo Contest. H.E. McCracken seven-grader Ahtziy Camacho designed the 2022 River of Words cover art.



Makenzie Rice, MRHS
"Isolation"



Katharine Crosby, HHIHS
"Purity"



Kylie Bowes, MRHS
"Lighting Up the Room"



Coda Stanley, MRHS
"Savannah #1"



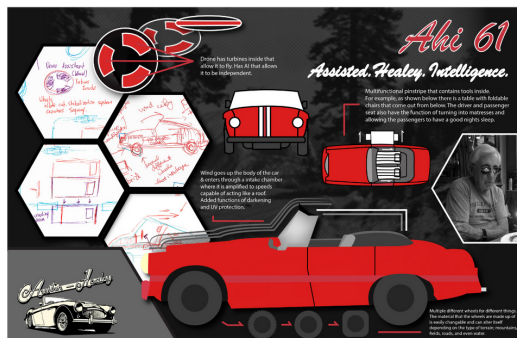
Alexandra Fisher, HHIHS
"Blessing"



Camden Bernstein, HHIHS
"ANYAH"



Delicia Chisolm, HHIHS
"Miami Florida Vintage Poster"



Zachary Stames, HHIHS
"Michelin Ahi 61"

Bluffton Middle School's band received an overall Excellent (II) rating at the SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment.



Battery Creek High School student Layla Dupont won a Director's Award for her painting "Beyond Borders" in the inaugural Coastal Discovery Museum Juried High School Regional Art Exhibit.



Academics & Arts

Our district-wide school choice program frees students from a one-size-fits-all learning model by offering them a customized program suited to their talents and interests. This learning model builds confidence, helps students increase their knowledge and skills, and puts them on a course for success in school and in life.











Pictured clockwise from left to right: MRHS welding students at SkillsUSA competition; WBECHS students plant their wellness garden; HHIB elementary students; HHIHS dance performance; BLMS science fair participant; BES Principal and student at the book vending machine.; HHIB elementary students; HHIHS dance performance; BLMS science fair participant; BES Principal and student at the book vending machine.

Athletics



Stay Connected

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-  communitycomments@beaufort.k12.sc.us