



The Connector

York School District One's Community Newsletter

Superintendent's Message

"Connected As One" transcends mere words; it embodies a profound commitment guiding our actions in serving our community's children, supporting our colleagues, and collaboratively working towards the betterment of our school district. It serves as our compass, ensuring our endeavors align with the aspirations and needs of our educational community.

If you haven't yet engaged with our school system, I encourage you to seize the beginning of this new year as an opportunity to become involved, whether as a business partner, parent, or volunteer. Our collective efforts have the power to make a meaningful difference, especially when we are united in our dedication to providing the very best for the children in our community.

As we embark on the second half of the school year, it is a chance to reflect on our achievements and boldly pursue the goals that lie ahead. Seeking feedback from our stakeholders, we aim to evaluate our strengths and identify growth opportunities. Your communication and input are invaluable in this process.

As we approach the midpoint of our five-year (2022-2027) Strategic Change Agenda, we are committed to reflecting on our progress and ensuring unwavering focus on the goals collectively set for our district. By remaining united and pulling together in the same direction, prioritizing the well-being of our children, we can achieve our objectives with excellence.

Your support is integral to the success of our school district. As we enter a new semester, I eagerly anticipate our ongoing collaboration to ensure our community, students, and families flourish through the principles of Learning, Serving, and Giving As One.

Warmly,

Kelly Coxe
Superintendent



Upcoming Dates

- January 12, 2024 @ 8:00 am –
 - York MLK Breakfast, Liberty Church
- January 13, 2024 @ 1:00 pm
 - York MLK Parade
- January 15, 2024
 - MLK Holiday (all offices & schools closed)
- January 18, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
 - YCHS Winter Graduation, YCHS Auditorium
- January 23, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting, YSD1 District Office
- January 27 & 28, 2024
 - Band Fish Fry, York Middle School, Cafeteria
- February 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
 - Regularly Scheduled Meeting, YSD1 District Office
- February 19-23, 2024
 - Intersession Week-No School for Students Unless Invited



York School District One Is A District of Distinction!



York School District One proudly announces its selection as a finalist for the esteemed National District of Distinction Award in the category of Academic Acceleration. This recognition is a testament to the district's steadfast commitment to innovative competency-based, student-centered learning experiences. Fulton County Schools (Georgia) and Denver Public Schools (Colorado) were also nominated.

Established by District Administration magazine, the Districts of Distinction initiative aims to celebrate school districts at the forefront of educational innovation, providing inventive solutions to complex challenges. Rooted in the belief that outstanding,

locally developed programs can inspire and be replicated nationwide, the award spotlights initiatives that significantly impact student achievement, engagement, and overall educational excellence.

As one of only two districts approved by the State Board of Education for implementing forward-thinking learning experiences, York School District One stands at the forefront of educational innovation. Elissa Cox, Director of Secondary Education, shared the district's transformative journey toward student-centered learning with its competency-based education partner, reDesign. After reviewing the district's portfolio of evidence, reDesign nominated York School District One for the prestigious award, highlighting the focus on student-centered learning, improved academic outcomes, and the design of professional development experiences.

The District was honored on December 13th at the annual Superintendent's Summit. Although not selected as the overall winner, this recognition is a powerful testament to the district's unwavering commitment to student-centered learning, academic excellence, and continuous educational innovation. Fulton County Schools (Georgia) was selected as the overall winner. Still, York School District One received a crystal award, engraved with the District of Distinction Finalist for Academic Acceleration inscription to proudly display.

York School District One Featured on WCNC News!



Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Lisa Spangler, Coordinator of Special Projects and Grant Writer, and Chad Carper, Director of Student Services, York School District One stands out as the sole local school district to be honored with the Stronger Connection Grant. This substantial grant, totaling \$175,000.00, will be instrumental in facilitating the appointment of two additional mental health

therapists. Currently, eight mental health therapists are actively engaged in providing vital support to students across the entire school district.

Including these two new therapists signifies a significant enhancement in our ability to cater to the needs of our students. With each school now equipped with its dedicated mental health therapist, we are poised to offer unprecedented stability and support to students who rely on these crucial services.

Furthermore, it's worth noting that the grant is not a one-time boost but is renewable for a second year, ensuring sustained support for our students' mental well-being. To learn more about this noteworthy achievement, tune in to WCNC News on Wednesday, January 10th, at 6:00 PM. You can view the story [online at 7:00 PM via this link.](#)

York School District One Board of Trustees



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Thank You For Your Service!

The month of January marks the annual observance of [School Board Recognition Month](#) — a time to salute the nearly 600 school board members serving South Carolina public schools. Districts around the state participate in School Board Recognition Month to honor the contributions and service of school board trustees. The theme, "In It To Win It," serves as a much-needed reminder to school board members of their responsibility to continue to fight with all their might on behalf of those they represent and as an acknowledgment of the exhaustive work they have already done. Our board members will be recognized for their commitment at our January 23rd meeting.

We want to extend an extra special "Thank You!" to our very own York School District One Board of Trustees for their dedication and commitment to serving the children, families, and educators of our community!

Community Connection

The Community Connection section of each newsletter will highlight community and business partnerships that support the goals and efforts of the district. Each time a different group of partners will be highlighted. Want your partnership featured? Email Dr. Latoya Dixon, Public Information Officer for York School District One at ldixon@york.k12.sc.us.



Affinity Health Center Partnership at YMS

YSD1 has partnered with Affinity Health Center! Students and staff are invited to use this new [School-Based Center](#) located at York Middle School, 1010 Devinney Rd (former Technology Center entrance). Open on Mondays, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM for students and staff.

Walk-ins are welcome and the clinic offers sports physicals to students who wish to participate in athletics for just \$10.00. To learn more, check out their website or to make an appointment, call Local: (803) 909-6363, Toll Free: (877) 647-6363, or email info@affinityhealthcenter.org. Staff can visit the clinic for sick visits and more!

Academic Calendar Approved

York School District One has approved the academic calendar for the 2024-25 school year. The first reading of the 2024-25 academic calendar was approved by the YSD1 Board of Trustees on November 14, 2023. A second and final reading of the calendar was approved at the Dec. 12, 2023 Board Meeting.

[The approved Academic 2024-2025 Modified Balanced Calendar may be viewed here.](#)

2024-2025



YSD1 On WRHI AM 1340's Palmetto Mornings



Check out [#YSD1LegacyBuilders](#) Director of [YSD1 Transportation](#) Mr. Kevin Queen and Director of [York One Special Services](#) Mr. Bryan Greeson on [WRHI Radio's Palmetto Mornings](#) discussing our YSD1 district safety initiatives. Jump to 1:42:20 for quick access.

You can listen to WRHI on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:40 AM for more YSD1 news! Tune in on January 23, 2024 to hear from Superintendent Coxe.

Connect With Us



@York1Schools



#YSD1LegacyBuilders

#TheYorkWay