



Wednesday, April 17, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications
and Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org

**ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT EARNS PRESTIGIOUS COGNIA®
ACCREDITATION**

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District has proudly achieved accreditation from Cognia®, a nonprofit organization recognized for ensuring quality education services. Cognia, known previously as AdvancED, sets high standards that districts must meet to create productive learning environments, ensure equitable resource distribution, and uphold effective leadership.

Earning this accreditation signifies that Orangeburg County School District adheres to the rigorous Cognia Performance Standards and is committed to continuous improvement. This status benefits not just one school within the district but extends nationally, spotlighting our schools' dedication to excellence.

"School accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission signifies a nationally recognized mark of quality for our district. It emphasizes our commitment to excellence, our receptiveness to external review and feedback, and our determination to excel on behalf of the students we serve," said Dr. Shawn Foster, OCS D Superintendent.

To attain Cognia accreditation, a school district must engage in an ongoing process of enhancement and undergo both internal and external reviews. Schools maintaining good standing under these criteria are eligible to keep their accreditation for up to six years.

Dr. Mark A. Elgart, President and CEO of Cognia, commended the district, saying, "Cognia Accreditation is a rigorous process that focuses the entire school and its community on the primary goal of preparing lifelong learners in engaging environments where all students can flourish. OCS D is to be commended for demonstrating that it has met high standards and is making progress on key indicators that impact student learning."

Cognia serves as the umbrella organization for the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and

School Improvement (SACS CASI). Parents and community members seeking more information on Cognia Accreditation can visit cognia.org.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

About Cognia

Cognia is a global, nonprofit improvement organization dedicated to helping institutions and other education providers grow learners, teachers, and leaders. Cognia offers accreditation and certification, assessment, and improvement services within a framework of continuous improvement. Serving 40,000 public and private institutions from early learning through high school in more than 90 countries, Cognia brings a global perspective to advancing teaching and learning. Find out more at cognia.org.

###