

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

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## Media Release



**Jennifer Baez, Ph.D.**

**Interim Director of Multilingual Outreach**

**Office of Communications**

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**Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Anita Huggins**  
Interim Deputy Superintendent

**Vanessa Denney, M.Ed.**  
Interim Executive Director of Communications

### **Pepperhill principal to serve in new role**

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is delighted to welcome Dr. Jennifer Baez as Interim Director of Multilingual Outreach. In this role, Baez will serve a critical need by providing needed expertise, supporting improved outcomes for CCSD’s multilingual learners and family.

A significantly growing population, nearly 15% of the district’s students speak English as its second language. Baez will transition from her current role as principal at Pepperhill Elementary School to fill this new role on October 10. Lara Latto, former principal at Murray-LaSaine Elementary [Montessori], Harbor View Elementary, and Chicora Elementary, will fill the Pepperhill role.

Baez began her career in Texas as a bilingual teacher and instructional specialist in Irving Independent School District (ISD) from 2002 to 2005 while also serving as an English as a Second Language (ESOL) and Spanish lecturer at Tarrant County College. During her tenure in Irving ISD, Baez taught first, third, and fourth grade, mentored first-year teachers, and tutored third through fifth grade using TAKS intervention methods. She also completed an administrative internship managing over fifty employees and Saturday School and wrote district curriculum for the bilingual and ESOL department.

In 2007, Baez joined the Region 10 Education Service Center in Richardson, Texas, as a teacher preparation and certification bilingual/ESL consultant. In this role, she coordinated teacher certification and placement, provided instructional and behavioral management support, and lead multi-district collaborative recruiting for bilingual teachers.

Before moving to South Carolina, Baez served as the high school assistant principal at Newcomer Center in Arlington ISD and the assistant principal at Stonegate Elementary in Hurst Eules Bedford ISD. In these roles, she successfully reduced truancy and referrals, strengthened school-to-community relations, and increased awareness and understanding for students from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Upon joining CCSD in 2013, Baez served as the principal of Angel Oak Elementary for one year before serving as an associate principal at West Ashley Advanced Studies Magnet. She last served on special assignment in the Capital Programs Department before becoming principal at Pepperhill in May 2019. "We are delighted to welcome Dr. Baez into this much needed role," said Superintendent Donald Kennedy. "Her experience and expertise will help us improve outcomes for all students, particularly those who work hard to acquire the English language."

Baez received a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Languages from the University of Dallas, a Master of Education in Educational Administration from Texas Women's University, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in K-16 Educational Policy and Leadership from the University of Texas. Additionally, Baez holds Texas superintendent and principal certifications, as well as South Carolina superintendent, elementary, secondary, early childhood, and Spanish K-12 certifications. She also has successfully completed the Project Management Professional (PMP) course, the Texas Principal Excellence Program (TxPep), and Coaching for Greater Effectiveness (CGE).

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.