

**For Immediate Release**  
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# Media Release

## **Four CCSD schools awarded grants from Laura Bush Foundation**

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**Charleston, SC** – Springfield Elementary School and Pepperhill Elementary School, along with Burke High School, and R.B. Stall High School were each awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. A total of 300 schools from 44 states received a grant. No more than four schools per district received a grant; Charleston County School District (CCSD) is one of the few districts with four grant awards.

As a former school librarian, Laura Bush knows that library resources are often less prioritized for funding. The Laura Bush Foundation provides funding to schools with the greatest needs to focus on their library collection. The foundation has provided over \$19.5 million to 3,300 schools in the last 20 years.

"I am thrilled that children will soon have access to an updated library collection," said Laura Bush when announcing this year's grant awards. "Students across the country turn to books to discover the world around them, and we know that opening a new book opens the door to new opportunities and learning."

Burke High School Librarian David Matthews said the grant funds will be used to update the school's book collection to reflect the school's diverse population and community.

"The general fiction books and non-fiction books purchased will modernize our collection and also reflect the school's population," said Matthews. "We will purchase books that include global views and multiple perspectives. These books will celebrate the diversity of our community."

Grant money for Springfield Elementary's Librarian Regina Stephens will be spent on similar updates for the school's library collection.

"We will be increasing the number of books that reflect our changing student population," said Stephens. "Receiving the grant will also aid the school in increasing the book-to-student ratio."

R.B. Stall High School Librarian Elizabeth Tonelli discussed how the funds will help encourage students to read more.

“Our students requested more print books,” said Tonelli. “Providing the students with the format they prefer is clearly important to our unique student population.”

Grant applications for the 2023-2024 school year will be open in late 2022. Visit [www.BushCenter.org](http://www.BushCenter.org) to learn more.

To learn more about the Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries visit [www.BushCenter.org](http://www.BushCenter.org). For more information on these grants and CCSD schools that have previously been awarded this grant, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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#### **The Laura Bush Foundation**

The Laura Bush Foundation for America’s Libraries supports school libraries with the greatest needs with the goal of encouraging all students to develop a love of reading and learning. The Laura Bush Foundation is managed as a restricted fund at the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas. More information can be found at [www.bushcenter.org](http://www.bushcenter.org).

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

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.