

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Six CCSD schools awarded library grants from the Laura Bush Foundation

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Charleston, SC – Chicora Elementary School, Deer Park Middle School, Hunley Park Elementary School, Military Magnet Academy, North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School, and Sanders Clyde Elementary School were among 300 schools from 44 states to receive a \$5,000 grant through the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries.

The foundation is dedicated to helping school libraries expand, diversify, and update their collections. As a former school librarian, Laura Bush knows that library resources are often less prioritized for funding.

"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," said Bush.

The six CCSD schools will use their grant funding to update school library collections to reflect students' reading interests and backgrounds.

"Our school library should allow students to peer into the lives and experiences of others, to give them glimpses into cultures and traditions different from their own so that stereotypes and discriminatory ideas are pushed aside, making room for accurate and authentic representations of real people in our world," said Alexandra Magee, teacher librarian at Hunley Park Elementary.

Sanders-Clyde's student population is 96 percent African American and teacher librarian Christina Siebert wants students to see themselves as well as others through reading a variety of texts.

"I hope to update the collection in a way that positively reflects their student body," said Siebert.

Several of the schools will be using the grant funds to expand their book collections for their multilingual population, including Spanish and Portuguese speaking families.

"Our school has a growing and diverse population of multilingual learners," said Dana Anderson, teacher-librarian at Deer Park Middle School. "The funds from this

grant will be used to purchase books in languages and formats that support and encourage all of our students to become lifelong readers.”

Military Magnet Academy is allocating some of the grant funds towards a more diverse collection.

“Our student population is approximately 34 percent Hispanic,” said MMA’s Donna Eisen, teacher-librarian. “Our library collection has only 55 books that include Spanish text (representing less than one percent of our current collection) and only 60 books written by Latinx authors. An increase in this area of the collection will better represent the school’s student population.”

North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary wants to expand the graphic novel section of its collections. The addition of more graphic novels in the library will provide a different format for students that supports multiple literacies and promotes students’ interest in reading.

“We will be able to purchase books that can grow and bloom our students’ knowledge of a variety of topics with a focus on social-emotional learning and the arts,” said Megan Minchener, teacher-librarian at North Charleston Creative Arts.

Melissa Zahler, teacher librarian at Chicora Elementary, plans to focus these grant funds on expanding the nonfiction section of her library to support recent changes to the state’s science and social studies standards. She also wants to offer additional engaging books about topics that captivate students’ interest like animals, space, history, and biographies.

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 grant application period has opened. Visit www.BushCenter.org to learn more.

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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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 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 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.