

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Three CCSD schools now accredited by leading early education organization

*Mary Ford and Midland Park join Laurel Hill with NAEYC
certification*

Office of
Communications

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center and Midland Park Primary School recently earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children ([NAEYC](#)). Coupled with Laurel Hill Primary School, CCSD has three of the five NAEYC-accredited schools in the Charleston area.

“NAEYC Accreditation is one of the highest achievements in early childhood which demonstrates excellence in programming for young children and their families,” explained Kim Foxworth, CCSD’s Executive Director of Early Childhood School Readiness Programs. “Please join me in congratulating [Mary Ford Principal] Loretta Hart, [Midland Park Principal] Ian James, and their staff for this accomplishment.”

The certification proves the school is meeting high standards for learning. The process involves a year-long program of creating portfolios for the school, individual classroom portfolios, and a site visit by NAEYC.

“Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center is proud to have earned the NAEYC Accreditation,” explained Principal Hart. “This accomplishment aligns with our vision that every child deserves access to high-quality early learning experiences. The NAEYC Accreditation ensures that our program is safe, well-prepared, and intentional about ensuring children’s success. It is the ‘gold standard’ of Early Learning, and we could not have achieved this accomplishment without the leadership of CCSD’s Early Learning Department and our school teams. They are the heart of this achievement!”

“Achieving NAEYC Accreditation signifies that Midland Park Primary is a center of learning that uses the highest quality strategies in the education of our students,” added Principal James. “We are proud to be able to stand with Laurel Hill and Mary Ford as the three schools in CCSD with this distinction. We can definitively say that our vision of students being the heart of our work is true and we look forward to continued success that our students are experiencing.”

NAEYC accreditation is done every five years and is vital to maintain because primary schools and early learning centers are unique learning environments that don't have third grade reading scores for state report cards.

Laurel Hill Primary earned its NAEYC accreditation in 2011, has maintained it since then, and is currently in the renewal process.

For more information, 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.