

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Schools focus on making literacy fun in the summer**

Office of Communications

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**Charleston, SC** — Two Charleston County School District (CCSD) elementary schools, Angel Oak Elementary School and Chicora Elementary School, have been awarded a \$3,000 [Summer Reading Grant](#) from [Dollar General](#) to keep students reading throughout the summer.

[Twelve grants](#) were awarded in South Carolina; the grants in CCSD were the only ones in the Tri-county area.

Angel Oak's teacher librarian, Jennie Church, applied for the grant to provide families *STEAM Literacy Packs* that can be checked out for the summer. The Literacy Packs will contain materials in English and Spanish so all families, including multilingual families, will have hands-on learning materials.

"Our goal for the summer STEAM Literacy Packs is to avoid summer learning loss by increasing hands-on literacy, giving families new ways to make reading fun, and encouraging student-led inquiry," said Church.

Each STEAM Literacy Pack will include 11 classic fairy tale stories (bilingual) so families can read one story together per week. Toys such as puppets to integrate arts and literacy; engineering tools such as blocks or magna-tiles for problem-solving; and a family-friendly game for social and emotional learning (SEL) will also be included.

Chicora Elementary School's fourth grade teacher, Angela Page, wrote the grant for the school's summer camp. The no-cost summer camp will enroll 100 students for six weeks. Students will have two hours of reading instruction each day. Every student will get their own books that they can then take home. The grant will also provide incentives to motivate and reward students for their hard work over the summer.

"With these additional literacy resources, we hope to prevent the 'summer slide' and continue to close the achievement gap" stated Page.

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation has multiple grants available to schools including a family literacy grant and a youth literacy grant. All schools are eligible to apply. Dollar General accepts grant applications each winter.

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 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.