

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD brings home more than 30 honors in SCNSPRA's Rewards for Excellence

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Office of Communications, along with 11 schools, combined to win a district-record 32 awards in the 2023 Rewards for Excellence program, sponsored by the South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SCNSPRA). CCSD tied Kershaw County School District for the most overall awards in the state this year. The honors for CCSD include the prestigious Golden Achievement for the district's Pulse of CCSD initiative and two "Best in Show" honors in School Photography (Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies) and School Website (Lucy Beckham High School).

Along with the overall number of 32, 11 schools receiving honors is a new CCSD record. Orange Grove Charter School set another district record with seven awards by itself.

SCNSPRA recognized 201 programs and projects from across the state during a ceremony on Friday, May 12, 2023, in Columbia.

Rewards for Excellence recognizes outstanding communications and public relations efforts by South Carolina schools, school districts, and education agencies and associations. Public relations veterans with extensive experience in educational and business communications evaluated 303 entries (state record) from the school and district levels.

The program features the following three main awards categories:

- Medallion (for comprehensive public relations programs)
- Golden Achievement (for a single project or an aspect of a comprehensive program)
- Publications and Electronic Media (for individual products designed to improve communication)

The following entries from the district and CCSD schools were honored in this year's Rewards for Excellence program:

District

Golden Achievement - [Pulse of CCSD](#)

Excellence in Writing - [Cario students earn a Young Hero grant](#)
Excellence in Writing - [Principal Malone makes sure basic needs of students and families are met](#)
Excellence in Writing - [Pulse of CCSD - Luis Torres Clavell](#)
Excellence in Writing - [Student photographers capture the excitement of learning at CPA](#)
Photography – First Day of School E.B. Ellington Elementary 1
Photography – First Day of School E.B. Ellington Elementary 3
Special Publication - [Focus on CCSD](#)
Video – [CCSD Summer SAIL Program 2022](#)
Video – [Kory Roberts 2022 CCSD Teacher of the Year](#)
Video – [Planting the Seed to Teach - Stories of CCSD](#)

School

Newsletter – Orange Grove Charter School (The Tiger's Roar - June 2022)
Newsletter - Orange Grove Charter School (The Tiger's Roar - November 2022)
Photography - Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies (Cooper River CAS National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration) - **Best in Show**
Photography - Julian Mitchell Elementary School (Mitchell Elementary's Day at Folly Beach)
Photography - Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center (Great Minds Meet)
Photography - Stiles Point Elementary School (Pizza Day at Stiles Point)
Social Media - Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies' [Facebook page](#)
Social Media - North Charleston Elementary School's [Facebook page](#)
Social Media – Thomas C. Cario Middle School's [Facebook page](#)
Video – Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies ([House of Fire Safety Horrors](#))
Video - Ladson Elementary School ([Ladson Morning News Show](#))
Video - Mary Ford Early Learning & Family Center ([Beyond One Street: The Life, Impact, and Legacy of Thomasina McPherson](#))
Video – North Charleston Elementary School ([We are North Charleston Elementary School](#))
Video - Orange Grove Charter School ([8th Grade Mentors](#))
Video - Orange Grove Charter School ([Celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month at Orange Grove](#))
Video - Orange Grove Charter School ([Orange Grove Alumni Return Home](#))
Video - Orange Grove Charter School ([Second Grade Pumpkin Patch](#))
Video - Orange Grove Charter School ([Track National Stars](#))
Website - [Lucy Beckham High School](#) – **Best in Show**
Website – [Jerry Zucker Middle School](#)
Website – [Murray-LaSaine Montessori School](#)

"I have been humbled by the behind-the-scenes glance at the Communications team's work that this past year has afforded me.," said CCSD's Interim Executive Director of Communications, Vanessa Denney. "CCSD's school communications professionals work tirelessly to tell the stories of CCSD. The work in service to schools and the community is evidenced by not only the breadth of the awards but

also by the number of schools working toward and receiving recognition in our county. Kudos to all of the award recipients."

This is the third consecutive year CCSD broke its own record in the SCNSPRA Rewards for Excellence program. The district picked up [21 honors last year](#) (which led the state) and received [17 awards in 2021](#).

SCNSPRA is an affiliate of the National School Public Relations Association. The state chapter is composed of more than 139 school public relations practitioners, superintendents, and other educational professionals from across the state. The organization strives to foster development in the field of school public relations and to encourage meaningful community involvement in and understanding of the public school system.

Please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303 for additional information.

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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.