

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Grants help CCSD celebrate Earth Day year-round

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC — All year long, not just on Earth Day, Charleston County School District (CCSD) students learn about respecting and preserving our natural environment. Students learn in school gardens, in natural spaces on school campuses, and through field experiences across the Lowcountry.

Each school year, CCSD schools receive over \$100,000 in grants for environmental education projects. This year, three CCSD schools received a [Dominion Environmental Education & Stewardship Grant](#). Teachers are awarded grants from corporations such as Bosch and Dominion Energy, local groups such as Seabrook Island Natural History Group, and many other philanthropic organizations.

Over 30 CCSD schools have outdoor classrooms. Students learn about history, culture, and science by growing local crops and native plants. CCSD students participate in outdoor field experiences in partnership with local nonprofits such as the South Carolina Aquarium, Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission, and Keep Charleston Beautiful.

Lucy Beckham High School's environmental science teacher Jessica Herbert received a \$3,484 grant to build a pollinator garden and composting program.

"It is our goal to beautify the school campus while educating students on the importance of biodiversity, native plants, and minimizing waste in our local landfills," said Herbert.

Malcolm C. Hursey Montessori School's garden teacher, Shella Moritz, and teacher librarian, Kaitlin Torres, received a \$2,365 grant to combine garden education with literacy. Students enjoy story time in the media center while sipping smoothies incorporating vegetables from the school garden.

"We integrate reading while enjoying the food that we grow, so our students can appreciate the benefits of both in their lives," explained Moritz.

Charleston Charter School for Math and Science high school science teacher Christina Rutter received a \$4,500 grant for the school's science club to clean local beaches. After the beach sweeps, the students analyzed the type of trash at each beach and recommended a remediation plan specific to that location to prevent

future litter. Students presented their research findings at the Lowcountry Regional Science & Engineering Fair at the end of March.

"Our goal is to not only enrich the beaches of South Carolina, but also increase awareness so we can keep our beaches clean," said Rutter.

All schools are eligible to apply for grant up to \$5,000 through the [Dominion Environmental Education & Stewardship](#) grant program. The grant application opens in late summer each year.

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.