

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Office of Communications

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

Anita Huggins
Deputy Superintendent

Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.
Interim Executive Director of
Communications



Anita Huggins
Deputy Superintendent

Anita Huggins is CCSD's Deputy Superintendent

Veteran educator and leader oversees district's Academic Leadership Division

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Anita Huggins has been selected as Deputy Superintendent by the Superintendent and Board of Trustees.

Huggins' commitment and deep sense of service have been critical to CCSD over the last two decades. During her most recent time as the Interim Chief Transformation Officer and Interim Deputy Superintendent, she demonstrated a passion for closing the persistent achievement gap for students of color through her work to develop interim goals and guardrails that will be used to plan for educational opportunities that serve all students. Huggins was also charged with designing, executing, and measuring the success of programs that support *Vision 2027* – the goal of all students reading at grade level by fifth grade by the spring of 2027. Her servant-minded leadership has served CCSD well.

"Ms. Huggins is a collaborative, humble leader who works to build consensus among teams while holding student outcomes at the forefront of all discussions, plans, and actions," said Superintendent of Schools Don Kennedy. "We are fortunate to have such an experienced, enthusiastic educator with a deep knowledge of CCSD serving our community. Her proven leadership in the community is visionary, strategic, and outside-the-box."

Before being named Deputy Superintendent, Huggins served as the Interim Chief Transformation Officer. She worked with the Superintendent, senior leaders, and other stakeholders to establish the district's vision and develop strategies to meet the needs of all students. Another key responsibility for Huggins is ensuring that systems, accountability, and support structures are in place to effectively serve schools, students, and communities. Huggins is currently a [Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative fellow](#).

Huggins is an accomplished educator; she has experience at the school level as an English teacher, a master teacher, and principal. She served in various CCSD schools and communities during her tenure, including Simmons-Pinckney Middle School, Burke High School, Edmund A. Burns Elementary School, Fort Johnson Middle School, and Moultrie Middle School.

Huggins has provided guidance from the district level as well. For over 12 years, she trained hundreds of teachers and administrators from all of CCSD's schools on how to plan for instruction effectively, deliver instruction, and develop conducive environments for learners as the Executive Director of Educator Effectiveness. In that role, Huggins was instrumental in developing district-wide systems for teacher development, support, and recognition while leading a team that simultaneously designed and executed *An Evening with Stars* gala event to recognize teachers and principals. Some of the proceeds from that event supported the *Charleston Educator Symposium*, a locally-recognized multi-day professional development event for educators that her team also hosted.

Over the course of her career, Huggins has presented at numerous conferences, served as a guest lecturer, facilitated and served on various panels, as well as co-authored journal articles to help grow and support aspiring, novice, and veteran educators.

"Ms. Huggins' breadth of experience in Charleston and diverse skill set uniquely position her for this pivotal role," added Kennedy. "A respected educator with a heart for kids, her enthusiasm and passion for making sure all students achieve at very high levels, regardless of their zip code, will serve students and schools well."

Huggins holds bachelor's degrees in both English and Secondary Education and a master's degree in Secondary Administration.

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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.