

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2022

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Communications Office

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

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



Lisa Allison
Interim Executive Director of Student Support

Lisa Allison to lead Department of Student Support Services

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) proudly announces that Lisa Allison will serve as Interim Executive Director of Student Support, effective October 1, 2022. Allison will replace veteran leader Jennifer Coker, who recently announced that she intends to retire on September 30, 2022.

Allison has served CCSD for over 20 years and has held the safety and wellness of students at the heart of her work. From 2001-2016, she served as a school psychologist, collaborating with school teams and families to support all students' academic, behavioral, and social-emotional learning needs. Following this school-based service, she transitioned to the District's Learning Services Division, supporting students in their efforts to read on grade level through the Primary Grades Academy and Middle Grades Academy. During that time, CCSD students noted significant growth in reading.

From 2016-2018, Allison worked as a School Climate Coordinator as a member of the Department of Alternative Programs and Services (DAP). In that role, she supported and implemented a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for students as well as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Social Emotional Learning, delivering customized support to students. During her tenure with DAP, she worked closely with climate coaches, CCSD's social work team, and the behavior support team.

Allison was named Director of Intervention and Psychological Services in 2019, during which time she led CCSD's school psychologists. Under her leadership,

CCSD adopted a K-2 Dyslexia screener and enhanced the literacy intervention framework to include curriculum materials aligned to the science of reading. Allison also developed a system of support for math intervention that led to a significant increase in the number of math interventionists in the district. Allison was part of a work team that helped CCSD earn a [Project Prevent Grant](#) from the US Department of Education, for which CCSD received \$5 million to support the mental health and wellness of students in North Charleston.

A leader in CCSD's commitment to Restorative Practices, Allison has provided Restorative Practices training within the district for the past two years. She serves on the Threat Assessment and Crisis response teams and is a certified trainer in Behavior Threat and Management (BTAM) and PREPaRE School Safety and Crisis Preparedness.

"Ms. Allison's combined expertise in school psychology and literacy make her a natural choice to lead the Department of Student Support Services," said Superintendent of Schools Don Kennedy. "CCSD is fortunate to benefit from her experience working with and removing barriers that often prevent children and young adults from achieving at high levels. Her work supporting the social/emotional well-being of students and our efforts to provide wrap-around services will support *Vision 2027*: all students reading on grade level by grade 5."

Allison graduated from the University of Richmond with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Music and from Pennsylvania State University with a master's degree in School Psychology. With two children in the CCSD system, she is committed to providing equitable support to all students.

For more information, contact the Communications Office at (843) 937-6303.

###

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.