

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **CCSD students outperform state on both SCPASS and SC READY**

Division of Communications

### *District improves in three major proficiency assessments*

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.  
Superintendent of Schools

Vanessa Denney, M.Ed.  
Interim Executive Director of  
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**Charleston, SC** – The South Carolina Department of Education released the results of the South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) and South Carolina College-and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) from the 2021-2022 school year today. Overall, Charleston County School District (CCSD) students outperformed the state average in all of the tests: SCPASS (science), SC READY – English Language Arts (ELA), and SC READY – Mathematics.

Nearly 52 percent (51.7) of CCSD students scored “Meets Expectations” or “Exceeds Expectations” on the SCPASS assessment, close to six percent (5.7) higher than the state average. CCSD scholars also improved their overall average by more than four percentage points from last year.

More than 53 percent (53.2) of CCSD students met or exceeded expectations on the SC READY – ELA test, six percent (6.4) better than the state average. The district’s overall score also improved by 4.1 percent compared to 2021.

Close to 49 percent (48.9) of CCSD scholars met or exceeded expectations in SC READY- Math, almost 10 points (9.8) better than the state average. The district also increased by two percentage points from last year to this year.

“These are very encouraging results and I am grateful to our teachers, leaders, and families for their work supporting our students,” said Superintendent Donald Kennedy. “Although these gains are promising as we kick off the new school year, we still have much work to do in our efforts to ensure that we establish high expectations collaboratively by engaging with families and communities. I look forward to identifying together – as a community – what students need to know and be able to do and to working closely with the Board to set the standard for student outcomes.”

Currently, per state law, fourth and sixth grade students take the SCPASS (science), and all students in grades 3-8 take the SC READY (ELA and math).

“We believe this is a sign of things to come in our district,” said Interim Chief Academic Officer Michelle Simmons. “The credit goes to our students, teachers,

administrators, and support staff for their collective hard work and commitment to excellence in education.”

### **Additional CCSD SCPASS (science) highlights**

- CCSD improved on last year’s results in both grade levels and performed higher than the state average in both grades
- 15 elementary schools improved by 10 or more percentage points from 2021 to 2022
- The district improved in the following subgroups: Black (3.2), Hispanic (5.8), White (2.8), Other (3.8), Multilingual Learners (1.9), and Pupils in Poverty (3.1)

### **Additional CCSD SC READY (ELA) highlights**

- CCSD improved on last year’s results in all elementary school grades, as well as grades 6 and 8, and remained higher than the state average in all grades (3-8)
- 10 elementary schools improved by 10 or more percentage points from 2021 to 2022
- The district made gains in the following subgroups: Black (5.2), Hispanic (4.6), White (3.0), Other (1.8), Special Education (1.6), Multilingual Learners (2.0), and Pupils in Poverty (4.9)
- Overall, the CCSD Acceleration Schools community increased in ELA by 7.5 percentage points from 2021 to 2022.

### **Additional CCSD SC READY (math) highlights**

- CCSD improved on last year’s results in all elementary school grades, as well as grades 6 and 7, and remained higher than the state average in all grades (3-8)
- Six elementary schools grew by 10 or more percentage points from 2021 to 2022
- Overall, the CCSD Acceleration Schools increased in math by 7.4 percentage points in meets & exceeds from 2021 to 2022.

“We are off to a strong start with our use of the district’s new reading curriculum to reach our goal of all students reading on grade level by grade five,” added Kennedy. “Students also have access to high-quality math programming to prepare them for success in advanced level math courses. This kind of support ensures students can achieve at high levels and are college/career ready upon graduation.”

### **Goals for improvement**

CCSD leaders recognize significant achievement gaps still exist throughout the district, and averages for “Meets Expectations” and “Exceeds Expectations” for all middle school grades in SC READY – Math were below 50 percent.

“CCSD will continue to prioritize closing achievements gaps by building upon the modest gains made in all subgroups,” added Deputy Superintendent Anita Huggins. “While we believe our system is headed in the right direction, we must remain focused on our shared goals, committed to our school-based teachers and leaders, and dedicated to collaborating with families and community partners to ensure all students achieve at high levels.”

To see all the results, visit the state’s Department of Education website ([SC READY](#) and [SCPASS](#)).

For more information, contact the Division 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.