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Media Release

Division of Strategy and
Communications

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Superintendent of Schools

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Channa Williams
Chief Financial Officer

Channa Williams named CCSD Chief Financial Officer

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) announces the appointment of Channa Williams as Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Williams joined CCSD in 2021 as Deputy Chief Financial Officer. She has been serving as interim CFO since January 2022.

Williams began her career in finance with the United Parcel Service where she directed revenue recovery operations and executed auditing the corporate billing cycle, recovering \$4 million annually for the North-Atlantic district during her four-year tenure. She next joined a CPA and management consulting firm, Stout, Causey & Horning, LLC as a financial business analyst from 2007 to 2010.

With proven results and sharp skills in her field, Williams was offered the position of senior accountant and SQL programmer with another CPA and management firm, Empirical Concepts. As senior accountant, Williams performed in-depth account analyses, reconciliations, research transactions and cleanup activities to identify any abnormal accounting activity for the Department of Homeland Security and all business components. Williams served in this capacity for two years before joining Baltimore City Public Schools.

While at Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS), Williams held a variety of finance positions including senior budget analyst, Executive to the CFO, Director of Strategy and Performance Management, and I-Budget Director.

Some of her responsibilities included planning, organizing, and directing the development and management of the district's \$1.3B budget to align with strategic priorities. She also directed the district's work around its Fair Student Funding framework and strategic financial management, as well as provided leadership on the charter revenue allocation formula. Additionally, Williams developed and implemented budgetary control procedures and prepared budgetary analyses and reports for dissemination across the organization while directing the day-to-day operations of the Budget Office. She also developed BCPS' Board Approved Fund Balance Policy to align with the new fund balance requirements, developed the school and central office budget pre-planning financial models, and created five-year financial projections evaluating short and long-term impacts to revenue and expense impacts and the programmatic impacts to the strategic plan.

After four years with BCPS, Williams joined Baltimore City Department of Public Works as its fiscal operations manager where she planned, organized, and directed the development of the public works \$3 billion capital budget and managed day-to-day fiscal operations and workflows between various offices and City agencies. After three years, Williams returned to the education field as Vice President and Controller for Achievement First, Inc., a charter management operator (CMO) where she directed financial operations upwards of \$250M across the CMO, managed seven entities with 38 schools in five cities across three states. Williams served in this role for one year before joining Baltimore City Community College as its Vice President for Administration and Finance.

Williams earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Finance and a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting and Finance from Morgan State University in Baltimore. She also holds a degree in International Finance from St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Recognized for her outstanding work, Williams has been the recipient of several awards and accolades throughout her career including 2014 Maryland Board of Education Commissioners Public Recognition and Appointment, 2017 *BBR Magazine* Finance Professional of the Year Awardee, 2018 Women's Commission Member appointment by the Mayor of Baltimore, 2018 Greater Baltimore Committee LEADERSHIP Program Graduate, 2018 *Maryland Daily Record's* VIP under 40 Awardees, and recognition by multiple state and local municipalities and governing bodies for her commitment to public service and leadership in the community.

"Ms. Williams has been an asset to CCSD since joining the district as deputy CFO last year," said Superintendent Don Kennedy. "She has demonstrated excellent leadership as interim CFO since January and I am confident with her skill set and experience that she will continue to keep the district in great fiscal shape moving forward."

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.