

**For Immediate Release**

April 5, 2022

**Contact:**

Andy Pruitt 843-937-6583

# Media Release

## **Participating Kaleidoscope schools receive almost \$500,000 in Building Blocks Grants**

Division of Strategy and  
Communications

**Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.**  
Interim Superintendent of Schools

**Erica S. Taylor, Ed.D.**  
Chief of Staff

**Charleston, SC** – The Division of Early Care and Education at the South Carolina Department of Social Services has awarded 13 Charleston County School District schools a total of almost \$500,000 in grant money.

Child care stabilization grants were appropriated to states in the American Rescue Plan Act (Public Law 117-2) to help stabilize the child care sector via subgrants to child care providers due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds must be used to support the key operating expenses of child care providers to help ensure access to child care for families. In South Carolina, these stabilizations grants are called "SC Building Blocks."

The programs eligible to apply for the fifth round of SC Block Grant funding had to be enrolled in the ABC Quality Program and meet the Child Care Development Fund health and safety requirements.

ABC Quality is South Carolina's statewide rating and improvement system (QRIS) for child care and early education. ABC Quality is voluntary for child care providers and promotes excellence in meeting the total needs of children.

The following schools will receive funding:

- Belle Hall Elementary School
- Charles Pinckney Elementary School
- Charleston Progressive Academy
- Harbor View Elementary School
- Hunley Park Elementary School
- James B. Edwards Elementary School
- Jennie Moore Elementary School
- Maimie P. Whitesides Elementary School
- Memminger Elementary School

- Mount Pleasant Academy
- Oakland Elementary School
- Springfield Elementary School
- Sullivan's Island Elementary School

"We are so thrilled to have been awarded these grants," said Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning (Kaleidoscope). "If the pandemic revealed anything, it is the importance of high-quality child care to keep our economy and workforce moving forward. This money will be used to directly support our programs and students. It couldn't come at a better time."

"Qualifying under the new guidelines for the fifth round of the SC Block Grant is a tremendous win for our programs who are participants in the SC ABC Quality program," said Ashley Peters, Program Officer for the Department of Expanded Learning. "These funds will allow us to hire more staff and position us to expand our enrollment to pre-covid numbers."

Funding can be used on personnel, facilities, PPE, equipment, goods and services, mental health services, and past expenses.

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303. For more information on Building Block grants, click [here](#).

###

#### **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.