

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Let's Get Engaged – Department of Alternative Programs and Services announces engagement campaign winners

Division of Strategy and
Communications

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Charleston, SC – The Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Department of Alternative Programs and Services recently announced winners of a student video/poster contest. This is part of a larger initiative to encourage students, parents, community partners, and CCSD staff to connect and work together to promote student engagement for overall student success.

The "Let's Get Engaged: Be Present, Be Involved, Be Motivated" campaign focused on three pillars; Attendance, Academic, and Attitude (Behavior).

In September, schools across the district participated in a district-wide lesson discussing what attendance means to them. During this time, students created posters/videos using one of the four themes (Education Thrives When You Keep It Under Five, Attend Today Achieve Tomorrow, Let's Get Engaged! Be Present, Be Involved, Be Motivated, and Rebound with Attendance).

The posters and videos were judged by Constituent Board Members David Bell (District 10), Janie Daniels (District 10), and Susannah Sheldon (District 3), and a representative from the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, Colleen Dempsey.

The winners

Elementary Learning Community:

Grand Prize Winner: Pinehurst Elementary School - Madeline Taylor's first grade class (Alondra Vallecilo, Tah'Nylah Evans, Yeferson Funes Lucas, Keiry funez Cano, Khyli Gibbs, Yamileth Gonzalez Rangel, Victor Guadalupe Rangel, Camila Hernandez Techuacati, Kendra Inestroza Quintero, Abigail Leon Perez, Kiela Ortega Rosas, Benny Perez-Lopez, Mateo Rodriguez

Raymundo, Angel Torres-Teran, Keifer Velasquez Velasquez, Yoselin Victoria Barrios, Deandrae Lockwood)

Second Place Winner: Mt. Zion Elementary School - Megan Fleetwood's fourth grade class (Andrew Fipps, Scarlett Price, Immanuel Cilliard, Nicole Velasquez, Jeremiah Jinks-Rampersant, Krislyn Sams, Juliet Legare, Kiera Maloney, Preston Caligiuri-Lime house, Zoi Johnson, Jailyn Rpoer, Isla Hance, Kimberly Arana, Jorian Medrano-Aguirre, Kamden Morris, and Henry Faust)

Third Place Winner: W. B. Goodwin Elementary School – fourth grader Sharon Gonzale Valverda, Traniya James, and Shirley Mender

Middle School Learning Community:

Grand Prize Winner: Buist Academy, eighth grader Louise Martin

Second Place Winners: St. James Santee Elementary Middle School – seventh graders Kiara Deas, Samajaye Garrett, and Ella Bare

Third Place Winners: Baptist Hill Middle High School – seventh graders Jordan Carter, Varion Simmons, and Codi Stokes

High School Learning Community:

Grand Prize Winner: Baptist Hill Middle High School – eleventh grader Annayah Mustafaa

All participants received a certificate and free pizza from Little Caesars. The top video or poster winners from each learning community received a plaque for their school, a \$100 gift card, and a pizza party for his/her class. Second place winners received a \$50 gift card, and third place winners received a \$25 gift card.

"This year more than ever, we have to stand as a united front in supporting our students in every way," said Talecia Drayton. "The pandemic has brought about many hardships for our schools, students, and families. Many students struggled to adjust to online and hybrid models. Student engagement was impacted drastically and in many cases, negatively."

In an effort to increase school-wide attendance and academic achievement, CCSD is reaching out to families to connect them to resources and provide them with encouragement and support.

The mission of Charleston County School District is to enhance students' success by providing interventions to reduce chronic absenteeism.

"This mission is supported by the CCSD Attendance and Truancy Project Team," said Drayton. "A comprehensive and interactive action plan has been developed to engage all stakeholders. Student interventions are a major component of this initiative for supporting schools, students, and families so that all students have

equitable access to a high quality education that will assist them in becoming productive members of society.”

For more information, contact the Division of Strategy and Communication at (843) 937-6383.

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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.