



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact:**  
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## Media Release

### **JBE receives shade structure grant**

**James B. Edwards  
Elementary School**

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Michelle Simmons**  
Associate Superintendent  
Elementary Learning Community

**Robin Fountain**  
Principal

**Charleston, SC** – James B. Edwards Elementary School (JBE) has been awarded a Shade Structure Grant from the American Academy of Dermatology. The grant enabled a permanent shade structure to be built over Child Development and Kindergarten playground that will protect over 200 children each day from the sun's ultraviolet rays.

Since its launch in 2000, the AAD's [Shade Structure Grant Program](#) has awarded funding for more than 400 shade structures, which provide shade for more than 3 million individuals each day.

Charleston dermatologist Dr. Renee Straub, a member of the AAD, sponsored JBE's grant application. Dr. Straub has one child in Kindergarten at JBE and, one who will join the JBE family in 2021. The lead teacher of Child Development, Kristen Straub partnered with her sister (Renee) to promote this grant for JBE.

School staff members held a dedication ceremony held Friday, October 23, 2020.

"At James B. Edwards we believe that outside play is a vital part of developing the whole child," said Principal Robin Fountain. "We are so incredibly grateful for this sunshade. It significantly increases the amount of time we can safely access the play area."

The Shade Structure Grant Program is part of the AAD's SPOT Skin Cancer™ campaign to reduce the incidence of skin cancer by educating the public about effective skin cancer prevention tips.

"According to the AAD, skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, and it only takes one blistering sunburn during childhood or adolescence to nearly double a person's chance of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, later in life," said Kristen Straub. "Seeking shade is an easy way to reduce the risk of skin cancer, along with covering up and wearing a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher."

"We look forward to continuing our partnership with Dr. Straub and the AAD and educating our students and families about sun safety," said Fountain.

To learn more about the Shade Structure Grant Program or for ways to prevent and detect skin cancer, visit [SpotSkinCancer.org](http://SpotSkinCancer.org). For more information, contact the school at (843) 849-2805.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally-accredited school district that is 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 more than 50,000 students in 87 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.