

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **CCSD recognizes champion Book Battle team**

### Office of Communications

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**Charleston, SC** - Since 2019 Charleston County School District (CCSD) has hosted an annual Book Battle competition for elementary school students in fourth and fifth grade. In its first year, nine teams competed and the event has grown with over 20 schools competing. The event also serves as the kick-off for our district's Read Across America Week each year and highlights the value and excitement of student reading.

This year's winner of the competition was East Cooper Montessori Charter School who were honored last night at the CCSD Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting. Freddy Harris, Sylvia Lucas, Eliza Shaw, Amelia Walton, and Turner Whitwood made up the five-member team whose passion for reading catapulted them to the top. The team's coach and teacher librarian, Sherry Day, helped prepare and encourage these students along with support from the school's principal, Jody Swanigan.

Teams of five students competed first at the school level and then at the district level. The CCSD Book Battle is a quiz-bowl style competition with students answering questions about the current South Carolina Book Awards nominees. The students read the 20 books on the Children's Book Award list in preparation for the Book Battle.

In March of 2024, teams of elementary students and their families gathered at Cooper River Center for Advanced Studies for this year's Book Battle. Through four rounds of bracketed competition, the East Cooper Montessori Eagles advanced to the championship match where they defeated the Buist Book Besties in the finals. The team was awarded the Wendy Taylor Memorial Traveling Trophy and bragging rights for the year.

For more information, contact the Office 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 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 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.