

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD names School Wellness Award winners

Office of Communications

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Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) recently announced the winners of the annual School Wellness Award in partnership with the MUSC Boeing Center for Children's Wellness (BCCW). During the 2023-2024 school year, 49 CCSD schools earned a Wellness Award. The grand prize winner was **Stono Park Elementary School**, led by Traci Alter, the school's parent advocate. As part of the grand prize, the entire staff at Stono Park was treated to a healthy catered lunch, presented with a giant check for \$2,000 and received a trophy. Additionally, Stono Park set a new CCSD record of 287 points.

Charleston Progressive Academy (CPA) earned the Rising Star Award with 189 points, which is a 70.37 percent increase from last year. The effort was organized by school nurse Elizabeth Warren. CPA received a check for \$1,750.

The MUSC BCCW School-Based Wellness Initiative was created with the goal of improving nutrition and increasing physical activity for students and staff by motivating districts and schools to make policy, system, and environmental changes through participation in the School Wellness Checklist.

Runner's up included C.E. Williams Middle School-North Campus in second place. The school was awarded \$1,500 and was the first ever secondary school to make the overall top three schools. Third place was Harbor View Elementary School who also received a \$1,500 prize check.

"The schools have worked hard this year on their school-based wellness initiative," said Holly Kut, CCSD's Instructional Specialist for Health & Physical Education. "We had the most participation since the program was started in 2011, with 50 schools logging points."

Wellness Awards range from \$250 to \$2,000. The award money must go into the wellness programs at each school to help grow and sustain their initiatives. In total, \$33,100 went to CCSD schools for the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, CCSD schools received over \$32,000 in wellness grants this year to fund initiatives such as school gardens, increased water consumption, kinesthetic classrooms, and movement throughout the school day. The money also supports teacher and staff initiatives to promote mental health, self-care, and physical fitness.

According to Dr. Janice Key, Director of the MUSC BCCW, all participating schools did an outstanding job supporting wellness through healthy nutrition, adequate physical activity, and support of emotional needs.

"With support from our community and the work of our partnering schools, we are achieving our vision; a South Carolina where all children are healthy, succeed in school, and thrive in life," said Dr. Key.

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.