

For Immediate Release

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Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

More than 500 CCSD students earn SC Seal of Biliteracy during school year

Office of Communications

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools

Vanessa L. Denney, M.Ed.
Interim Executive Director of
Communications

Charleston, SC – A record number of Charleston County School District (CCSD) students, 501, earned the SC Seal of Biliteracy this year. This designation certifies that they have "workplace level language skills" in both English and at least one other World Language.

The Seal of Biliteracy is a nationally recognized credential certifying a student's ability to communicate in English and another language. Students must demonstrate this ability in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

"I'm so excited to see the growth in the number of Seals awarded in CCSD this year," said Stacy Attafi, District Instructional Specialist for World Languages. "We have doubled last year's numbers and are number one in the state."

Schools with students who earned Seals:

- Academic Magnet High School
- Baptist Hill Middle High School
- Charleston County School of the Arts
- Charleston Charter School for Math & Science
- Early College High School
- James Island Charter High School
- Lucy Beckham High School
- Military Magnet Academy
- North Charleston High School
- R. B. Stall High School
- St. John's High School
- Wando High School
- West Ashley High School

To qualify, students must score a minimum of 5 on all four language skills when they take the STAndards-based Measurement of Proficiency (STAMP) test. Its purpose is to improve language-learning outcomes, support excellence in language programs, and enable language credentialing.

Languages include Arabic, American Sign Language, French, German, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

SC Seal of Biliteracy Certificates and pins were awarded to qualifying students in the bronze, silver, and gold to wear at graduation.

In addition to the state of South Carolina, all 50 states and Washington, DC have approved the Seals of Biliteracy. South Carolina students will now be up to par with their peers on the national stage, signaling readiness for career and college, and for engagement as a global citizen. The seal appears on the transcript of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for both colleges and future employers.

"This recognition is important because receiving the Seal of Biliteracy acknowledges the communication skills of our students in both their first and second languages," said Katey Hines McCormack, Assistant Principal at R.B. Stall High School where the district implemented the first Newcomers Center for to successfully mainstream newly-arrived English Language Learners.

The SC Seal of Biliteracy complements the SC College and Career Ready Standards for World Languages as well as the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate.

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.