

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

Office of Communications

## **Empowering Educators at the CCSD Early Learning Conference**

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**North Charleston, SC** - North Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District’s (CCSD) Early Learning Department hosted an inspiring conference on Monday, August 12, 2024, at the North Charleston Convention Center, the theme of which was “Shine Bright Like a Diamond: Illuminating Paths in Early Childhood,” this day-long event was a beacon of professional development for teachers and teacher assistants in the District’s Child Development, Head Start, Early Head Start, and childcare settings.

Focused on enhancing educational practices and addressing key challenges, the conference featured an array of sessions centered around the [Pyramid Model](#), the core curriculum, and best practices in Early Childhood. This framework provided educators with innovative strategies for addressing challenging behavior, preventing preschool suspension, and promoting a positive and supportive learning environment for all students.

“Today’s conference was an exceptional opportunity for our educators to delve into the Pyramid Model and explore practical approaches for managing behavior and fostering inclusion,” said Jeehan Dinwiddie, CCSD’s Early Learning Coordinator. “Our theme, ‘Shine Bright Like a Diamond,’ reflects our commitment to equipping educators with the tools to illuminate the paths of our young learners and ensure their success. A special thank you to all the participants and presenters who made this event a success. Here’s to a new school year where every Early Learning educator and child can shine their brightest.”

In addition to behavior management and preventative strategies workshops, the conference emphasized the importance of family partnerships and proactive support. Attendees left with valuable insights and actionable strategies to create nurturing and effective learning environments.

“Social-emotional development is critical for the early learning years,” added Kim Foxworth, Executive Director of Early Childhood Readiness. “Our beginning of the year professional development was laser-focused on preparing teachers to support children in this area. Our goal is focused on keeping children in the classroom to develop their skills for learning.”

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.