

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD special recognitions honor arts in education and Suicide Prevention Month

Office of Communications

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North Charleston, SC - A proclamation acknowledging September as Suicide Prevention Month was read. It was a dedicated time during the meeting to raise awareness about suicide and promote mental health resources to prevent these tragedies.

Suicide remains a significant public health issue, and recent statistics highlight an urgent need for increased awareness, intervention, and support, especially among our youth. The proclamation recognized the need for community organizations, educators, healthcare professionals, and families to work collaboratively to build supportive environments, offer intervention resources, and create safe spaces for young people to seek help.

The recognition of Suicide Prevention Month highlights CCSD's ongoing commitment to promoting mental health awareness, supporting those affected by suicide, and advocating for programs and services that offer hope and help to individuals in crisis.

Additionally, Charleston County School District (CCSD) recognized the Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) schools as part of Arts in Education Week at the September 9, 2024, CCSD Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole meeting. There are currently 67 schools in the state of South Carolina that have obtained ABC status and the district is proud to have four of these distinguished schools in CCSD:

- Angel Oak Elementary, Principal: Judith Condon
- Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Principal: Tim Sullivan
- North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary, Principal: LaToya Smith
- Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts Elementary, Principal: Janice Malone

The ABC Project was founded in 1987 through the South Carolina Arts Commission with a mission to ensure that students in South Carolina have access to arts-rich educational opportunities as a core component of the curriculum.

The ABC Project identifies schools that maintain an arts-rich learning environment and show that the arts are not only appreciated but valued and integral to the school's vision of student development. Being identified as an ABC school is a

certification process that takes 6-18 months of developing and demonstrating strategic commitments of practice.

As part of the process, each school develops a certification team consisting of leaders from the school's governing stakeholders who are responsible for sustaining and growing the school's vision as an ABC school. The team is responsible for facilitating the development and implementation of the school's arts education strategic plan, and informing and engaging the school community in the strategic arts plan and philosophical commitments of being an ABC school. Once identified as an ABC school, the school is eligible to receive advancement grant funding and must maintain its ABC status every three years.

ABC schools serve as models for others to learn from, both in the state of South Carolina and across the country. Commitment to the arts is strategic in nature and requires courageous and creative leadership.

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.