



COMMUNITY REPORT 2024



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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Frank Rodriguez

The first Hispanic superintendent in SC, Superintendent Rodriguez starts off each of his personally recorded robocalls in English and Spanish by saying, "This is your proud Superintendent Frank Rodriguez," which is a genuine reflection of his commitment and dedication to serving everyone in his community.

Named the 2025 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Rodriguez has significantly impacted Beaufort County since his arrival. Under his leadership, two major bond referendums have overwhelmingly passed, one in 2019 for \$344 million and another in 2023 for \$439 million, the largest in the district's history.

His engagement with the community is evident through over 75 speaking engagements in the past year and his recognition as one of 25 "Superintendents to Watch" by the National School Public Relations Association for his communication efforts.

He testified before the U.S. Congress about the success of the district's extended learning programs, a collaborative effort involving community organizations to address pandemic-related learning loss. This innovative use of ESSER funds no doubt contributed to the district achieving its best-ever English Language Arts scores on the 2022, 2023, and 2024 SC Ready state assessments. Additionally, the district has also reached the highest College or Career Readiness scores at 82.8% and the highest graduation rate at 88.6%.

Under his leadership, the district's FY2023 budget was unanimously approved, raising the starting teacher salary to \$50,066 and propelling the district from 53rd to 1st in teacher compensation in the state at that time. Additionally, he has introduced free and reduced-cost afterschool childcare for staff as well as an induction and mentoring program for new teachers.

Before joining Beaufort County, Dr. Rodriguez dedicated 26 years to the South Florida education community in various administrative roles, further underscoring his extensive experience and commitment to education.



MISSION AND VISION

The **MISSION** of the Beaufort County School District, through a personalized learning approach, will prepare graduates who compete and succeed in an ever-changing global society and career marketplace.

Our **VISION** is to work with families and our diverse community to ensure that students perform at an internationally competitive level in a learning environment that is safe, nurturing, and engaging.

BOARD OF EDUCATION



MEMBERS

Back row, left to right: Earl Campbell, Ingrid Boatright, Rachel Wisniewski, Ph.D., Chloe Gordon, Victor Ney, Carlton Dallas, Elizabeth Hey, William Smith

Seated, left to right: Angela Middleton (Secretary), Christina Gwozdz, M.D. (Chair), Col. Richard Geier (Vice Chair)

GOVERNANCE

The Board leads, directs, and supervises the affairs of the District through policy development and accountability. The Board serves and is accountable to the community, primarily by ensuring that the District achieves the results described in the Board's [Results Policies](#) and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board's Operational Expectations Policies.

MEETINGS

The Board of Education convenes on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meeting dates are set and approved in December annually, with the possibility of additional special called meetings.

The first Tuesday meeting takes place at the district office's media center (2900 Mink Point Blvd, Beaufort), while the third Tuesday meeting is held at Hilton Head Island Middle School in the media center (55 Wilborn Rd, Hilton Head). Public meetings commence at 6 p.m.

For those unable to attend, the [County Channel](#) offers live streams of Board meetings.

Meeting agendas are posted on the district's website 24 hours in advance as required by state law and are accessible through the [Calendar section](#) of the site. Approved minutes and voting records are available on the district website's [Board meetings section](#).

To access past meeting agendas and related documents, visit the [Community website](#) (formerly BoardDocs).

DATA

STUDENT DATA

Of BCSD's **21,000 +** Students...



58.6% are at or below the Poverty Index



23% are English Language Learners



88.6% Graduate on time



82.8% of Graduates are Career or College Ready

BCSD Class of 2024 (1,531 Graduates) earned:

391 STEM Diplomas

288 Honors Seal of Distinction

146 Seals of Biliteracy

\$34,353,210 in scholarships

NOTABLE COLLEGE 2024 ACCEPTANCES

- Auburn University
- Clemson University
- Dartmouth College*
- Duke University
- Florida State University
- Harvard University*
- Howard University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Morehouse College
- Purdue University
- The Pennsylvania State University
- Spelman College
- United States Airforce Academy
- United States Military Academy at West Point
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- University of South Carolina
- University of Oregon
- Yale University*

*Full Scholarships

FY 2023-2024 EXPENDITURES

70% of BCSD's Budget is spent on Instructional Services and Support.



Instructional Services & Support	70%
District Support (incl. School Board)	6.6%
Transportation	2.5%
Academy of Career Excellence	0.6%
Charter School	2.7%
Food Service	(< 0.05%)
Utilities	2.7%
Facilities Maintenance	6.1%
Technology	2.2%
Other Financing Sources (Uses)	6.6%

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

The South Carolina Report Card measures progress of schools toward the goals of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. These goals include Academic Success, Preparing for Success, Multi-Lingual Learner Growth, School Climate, Graduation Rate, and producing graduates that are College and/or Career Ready.

The School Report Cards, which are based on South Carolina's education accountability system, are required for all elementary, middle, and high schools which receive overall ratings based on a 100-point scale. The ratings follow terms outlined in state law: Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, and Unsatisfactory.

EXCELLENT RATED SCHOOLS

An Excellent rating is defined as school performance that **substantially exceeds** the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of a South Carolina Graduate.

Elementary Schools
Coosa, Okatie, and Pritchardville

Middle Schools
Riverview Charter School

High Schools
Bluffton and May River

GOOD RATED SCHOOLS

A Good rating is defined as school performance that **exceeds** the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

Elementary Schools
Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts, Lady's Island, Red Cedar, Riverview Charter (grades K-5), and River Ridge Academy (grades K-5)

Middle Schools
Beaufort, Bluffton, and River Ridge Academy (grades 6-8)

High Schools
Hilton Head Island and Whale Branch Early College

TEACHING AND LEARNING

ACADEMICS PROGRAMS AND SCHOOL CHOICE

At BCSD, we know that not all students learn in the same way. Because of this, we give our families a voice and an opportunity to find a learning environment that best suits their student's individual needs. We are able to do this through offering school choice options, which make our programs accessible to all students in the district. Along with our excellent neighborhood schools, BCSD offers Montessori programs, Early College options, Advanced Placement, Cambridge Academy, Arts Programs, and International Baccalaureate programs. Additionally, we offer an academy program – The MedTech7 Magnet program - in seven district schools. This program features a specialized, theme-based curriculum that prepares students for a future in either the medical or technology field.

WELCOME CENTER

Our Welcome Center simplifies the identification of the appropriate academic instruction for Multilingual Learners according to federal and state laws, Beaufort County School Board policies, and the BCSD's mission and vision. The Welcome Center ensures that all students are given equal access to all educational services necessary to meet their academic success goals as quickly as possible. BCSD welcomes all student enrollment.

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS (ML)

The Multilingual Learners Program (MLP) prepares students for academic success. Beaufort County School District has a team of educators who work with families to identify and assess students whose native or home language is not English. Once students have been assessed, we continue to monitor their academic progress as part of an ongoing process. Beaufort County School District dedicates its resources and energy to providing a quality education for all students. Students with a heritage or homelanguage other than English have equal access to all district programs and services regardless of whether the family is a permanent resident, new to our country, or new to our district.



BCSD serves more than double the population of multilingual learners (23%) in comparison to the state (10%). Districtwide, BCSD serves families who speak over 30 different languages.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

PRE K/EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Office of Early Childhood Education strives to provide a comprehensive, community-based approach to school readiness in Beaufort County through quality early childhood education, family literacy, and parent education. Through collaborative partnerships with several community family support agencies and childcare providers, the district focuses to improve the lives of preschool age children so that they can take full advantage of educational opportunities. Early childhood programs and initiatives improve the effectiveness of parents as the primary teachers of their children, promote and encourage language, intellectual growth, and physical social-emotional skills.



Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center

DATA POINTS

The Traveling Preschool Bus made 139 visits, serving 1475 children and 1290 families

The Parents As Teachers Program served 126 families and 195 children

BCSD's Child Find Program offered developmental screening to 1,314 children (ages: 3-5)



Debra Washington was named the 2023 SC Parent Educator of the Year

TRAVELING PRESCHOOL BUS

The traveling preschool bus is a collaborative outreach program funded by Title I and Together for Beaufort providing early childhood learning centers and parent education services to rural areas which are currently underserved. Opportunities are provided for children and their parents, Pre-K teachers, and local area caregivers to enjoy special monthly activities, distribution of free books, lesson plans, parenting materials, and more. Sites include a number of churches, housing projects, area child care centers, area elementary schools, Head Start, Neighborhood Outreach Connection (NOC), KidFest, and more.



TEACHING AND LEARNING

MSAP/MEDTECH7

The Beaufort County School District was awarded a \$12.8 million Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) grant. The grant project, named MedTech7, was in year three of its five-year duration during the 2023-2024 school year. MedTech7 focuses on seven schools in the Beaufort and Whale Branch clusters, each of which will start full implementation of a schoolwide STEAM model as well as medical and cybersecurity technology K-12 magnet pathways during the 2023-2024 school year. MedTech7 partners with various organizations to offer innovative technology and instructional approaches to students and teachers, and it also offers a medical, technology, and arts-themed summer camp to district students free of charge.



Beaufort County School District Adult Education received several awards, including the Workplace Literacy award, as well as several individual awards, during the 2023 South Carolina Office of Adult Education Fall Training Institute & Celebrating Our Success Awards Luncheon,

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education offers programs to adults in the community to earn their GED and High School Diploma (HSD), and gain further knowledge to help them advance in the work force.

GED and HSD classes are also offered online, with free access to websites such as Essential Education, Burlington English and Best Plus Software (for ESL students), Aztec Software, and the NorthStar Digital Literacy Program. Adult Ed is also a Pearson Vue-Authorized Test Center.

During the 2023-24 academic year, 90 graduates received a High School Equivalency Diploma (GED) or a High School Diploma.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Career and Technical Education serves students in grades 6-12 through state-approved course offerings leading to career concentrations, work-based learning opportunities, and/or industry credentials. Whether planning to attend a four-year university, a technical college, or being prepared to enter the workplace, CTE courses and pathways can help students graduate college and career ready.

BCSD's goal is for CTE students to graduate with a diploma PLUS experiences which help make a more effective workforce transition after high school graduation. Experiences include:

- Leadership opportunities in Career Technical Student Organizations through competitive events and regional and state offices;
- Skill development through Industry Certifications;
- WIN/Work Keys Proficiency;
- Business experience through Work-Based Learning/Internships/Capstone Classes; and
- Early college credits through Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment.

Request a service! Scan the QR code to schedule your service today! Click "Continue to Form" located at the bottom-right of the window.



Barbering, construction, cosmetology, and nail tech appointments



Boat or vehicle repairs appointments

PATHWAY

Explore career choices and select a high school pathway.

SKILLS

Experience real-world examples to learn new skills.

PLAN

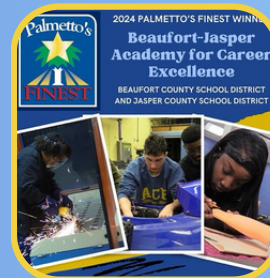
Graduate with industry certifications, work-based experience, and a solid plan.

BEAUFORT-JASPER ACADEMY FOR CAREER EXCELLENCE (ACE)

The Academy for Career Excellence, a 2024 Palmetto's Finest school, prepares high school students to become qualified workforce members by offering Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs leading to industry certifications, technical skills attainment, and soft skills training necessary to support current regional and national business needs.

Programs offered at ACE include:

- Culinary Arts
- Health Sciences
- Law Enforcement
- Marine Technology
- Welding
- Automotive Technology
- Barbering & Cosmetology
- Construction & Electrical
- Emergency Medical Services



WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

FINANCE AWARDS

Over the past 20+ years, BCSD has never received a negative finding in any of its annual independent audits. In addition, the District's finance staff has earned a national award for excellence from the Government Finance Officers Association for 30 consecutive years. Beaufort County School District continues to maintain an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's Investors Service. This outstanding rating allows the district and taxpayers the benefit of low interest rates on school bonds.

SAFETY AND SECURITY


One of our top priorities as a school district is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Beaufort County School Districts' highly-trained safety team works collaboratively with school staff, community partners, and local law enforcement to provide a safe learning environment for our 21,000+ students in every classroom, every day.

BCSD has Security Resource Officers (SROs) at all middle and high schools. As the state continues to fund two SROs per year, BCSD plans to add them to elementary schools. In the meantime, BCSD has armed security guards at all elementary schools.

#YOUMATTERBCSD

BCSD provides staff with quality mental healthcare accessed remotely in partnership with HelloHero. HelloHero is a HIPAA-compliant platform employing licensed mental health professionals dedicated to serving BCSD staff members. Also under the #YouMatterBCSD initiative, the district provided free childcare and will continue to do so for the school year.

The District Crisis Prevention Team conducted, coordinated, and participated in over 127 crisis prevention trainings with District and School Crisis Team members, faculty, staff, students, community partners, and First Responders to ensure all parties are collaboratively trained for multiple scenarios in order to provide effective protection and care to BCSD students, staff, visitors, and facilities during emergencies.




#YouMatterBCSD

A DISTRICT-WIDE INITIATIVE TO INCREASE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR EMPLOYEES THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH HOPE PERFORMANCE SYSTEMS AND HELLOHERO

FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT- WHEN AND HOW YOU NEED IT!

HelloHero is a HIPAA-compliant platform employing licensed mental health professionals dedicated to serving you, our BCSD staff members.



WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE

2023-2024 EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

**Constance
Goodwine-Lewis,**
BRES
Elementary
Principal
of the Year

Steven Schidrich,
HHHS
Secondary Principal
of the Year

Renee Roberts,
CES
Elementary
Assistant Principal
of the Year

Carrie Carter,
MRHS
Secondary
Assistant Principal
of the Year

Deborah Washington,
**Office of Early
Childhood**
SC Parent Educator
of the Year

Sarah Vinopal,
HHMS
Support Staff
of the Year

April Bryant,
CES
District Teacher
of the Year

Isabella Smith,
WBECHS
Induction Teacher
of the Year

Cheryl Dopson,
HHHS
District School
Counselor of the
Year

FACILITIES PLANNING

The goals of the 2023 BCSD Bond Referendum are to address academic needs, improve school safety, and address population growth through the addition, rebuilding, and replacing of aging facilities and the expansion of Career and Technical Education (CTE) spaces to address academic needs. The CPRC 2.0 ([Community Project Review Committee](#)) members dedicated over 900 hours visiting schools and consulting with experts to create a prioritized district-wide projects list.

The \$439 million investment will continue the work initiated by the 2019 referendum, allowing us to address crucial needs without requiring a tax increase.



REFERENDUM PROJECTS

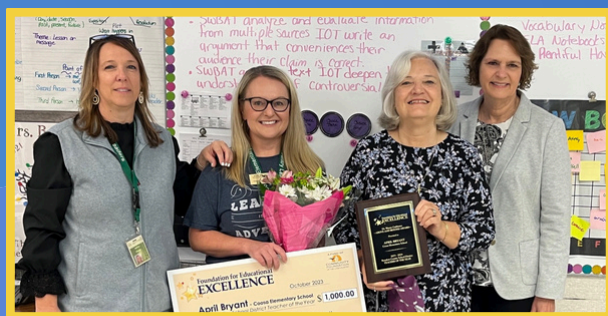
- Rebuilding Hilton Head Island High School
- Constructing Lady's Island Middle School
- Adding an Early Childhood Center in Bluffton
- Adding a PreK-5 Elementary School in Bluffton
- Building a Gymnasium at Riverview Charter School
- Career & Technical Education
- Building a Technology & Warehouse Imaging Center
- Right Choices & District Educational Support Center Kitchen
- HVAC Equipment
- Furniture
- Parking Lots, Driveways & Sidewalks
- Safety and Security Enhancements



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Foundation for Educational Excellence was established by the Beaufort County School District in 2007 to fund Innovative Teacher Grants that support student enrichment activities and projects that exceed regular school budgets. The Foundation for Educational Excellence awards Innovative Teacher grants (up to \$750 per classroom) and School Resource grants (up to \$4,000 for school wide potential use) once a year in the fall. Other special grants given throughout the year include: Student Enrichment grants, Above & Beyond Teacher of the Year Recognition grants, and Induction Teacher Grants.



BCSD UNIVERSITY

Beaufort County School District University (BCSD U) was created to provide members of the community with an opportunity to learn more about BCSD and its operations, including instructional and administrative services.

Over the course of five months, the inaugural class spent countless hours engaging in a variety of informative sessions, delving into the intricacies of curriculum development, explored the latest in educational technology, and gaining insight into the district's financial management.

The program culminated in a graduation reception.

Fostering Advocacy for our Schools



Below: BCSD U inaugural class, left to right: Neal Pugliese, Rabbi Tzipi Radonsky, Kim Wiley, Melina Lee, Alex Navarro, Dr. Rodriguez, Mayra Rivera-Vasquez, Leigh Copeland, Megan Mack



EXTENDED LEARNING AND AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Twelve extended learning community partner sites served 550+ students.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beaufort County School District students, parents, employees, and community members continue to embark on academic recovery efforts to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on student achievement.

This is a challenge that districts across the state and nation face and that BCSD continued to address this past school year by aligning resources to students' instructional needs. During the 2023-24 school year, BCSD schools achieved:



Five Beaufort County School District students were offered the prestigious National Merit Scholarship, having been judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.



Under the leadership of Superintendent Frank Rodriguez, student literacy test scores on the current state assessment are the highest in the district's history. Our success is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, employees, and community members.



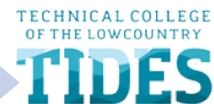
The district has seen substantial improvement in the bi-literacy assessment in 2023. Last year, BCSD was ranked sixteenth in the state. This year, the district is ranked third. The bi-literacy assessment tested French, German, Russian and Spanish languages.



In the spring of 2024, Academy for Career Excellence was named a Palmetto's Finest School, awarded to schools with excellent instruction and outstanding leaders, augmented by strong family and community involvement and a supportive business community.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2023, BCSD and Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) announced BCSD Tides, a new dual enrollment partnership that allows qualified BCSD rising ninth grade students to enroll in a full-time dual enrollment cohort at TCL's New River Campus or Beaufort Mather Campus. Students enrolling for the 2024-2025 school year will have the option of one of two associate degree pathways as a major for their ninth and tenth grade years and can declare an associate degree minor with a technical program emphasis for their junior and senior years.



Bluffton High School won 11 awards at the DECA International Career Development Competition (ICDC), an organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality, and management in high schools and colleges globally.



May River High School became a Visual and Performing Arts School (VPA), offering 47 course selections in the arts.



In 2023, Coosa Elementary School was awarded as a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a widely recognized symbol of exemplary teaching and learning.



Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez was named one of 25 National School Public Relations Association's Superintendents to Watch. Dr. Rodriguez was also named the 2025 South Carolina Superintendent of the Year by the SC Association of School Administrators (SCASA).



ACADEMICS & ART

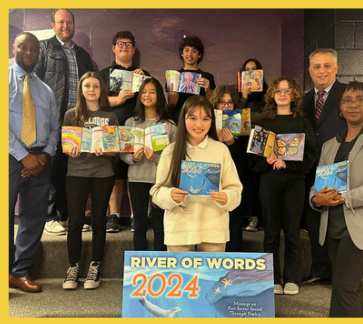
Our district-wide school choice program frees students from a one-size-fits-all learning model by offering them a customized program suited to their talents and interests. This learning model builds confidence, helps students increase their knowledge and skills, and puts them on a course for success in school and in life.



May River HS students perform in Godspell.



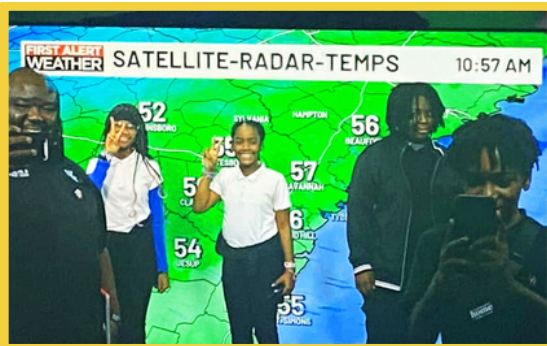
Battery Creek Band marched in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day parade.



H.E. McCracken eighth-grader Kaylee Carter designed the 2024 River of Words cover art.



Culinary student practices topping brownies



ATHLETICS



STAY CONNECTED

-  <https://www.beaufortschools.net/>
-  <https://connectbeaufortschools.org/>
-  Beaufortcountyschools
-  BeaufortSchools
-  beaufortscschools
-  <https://www.youtube.com/@BeaufortSchools>
-  843-322-2300
-  communitycomments@beaufort.k12.sc.us

