

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2025

Contact:

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

Clemson, CCSD use \$6 million grant to increase use of co-teaching model

Office of
Communications

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

Michelle A. Mills
Associate of Communications

Charleston, SC - Clemson University's College of Education has received \$6,000,000 in funding to support the recruitment and retention of high-quality teachers and improve student success in Charleston County School District's (CCSD) North Charleston elementary schools through the United States Department of Education's Education and Innovation Research (EIR) grant funding.

This funding will go towards continuing the collaboration with CCSD on the university's [coteaching project](#) at Pinehurst, Dunston, and North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary schools. The project will recruit teachers from a variety of pipelines including career changers who can become certified through Teach Charleston, our homegrown alternative route program. This includes a targeted effort to recruit candidates from Claflin College, South Carolina State University, and Clinton College. CCSD will bring on 20 additional co-teachers for each of the next three years. Four of the teaching pairs each year will include residents who are active students at Clemson. The first cohort of apprentice teachers will begin the program in the 2025-26 school year.

Through the Clemson Residency Project, two teachers work together in a classroom. A veteran teacher works with Clemson towards their South Carolina coaching credentials while the other teacher works with Clemson to obtain a master's degree. This partnership allows students to receive double the amount of effort and individualized attention from their teachers.

"The project is built on a proven co-teaching model that the district and Clemson University know works," said Laura Eicher, director of Clemson's teacher residency. "The College worked with the district to design the project to attract educators who are passionate community members invested in these schools and in student success."

Pinehurst Principal Paul Pallagi said the Clemson Residency Project has been nothing short of an amazing experience.

"Over the past two years, we have created dynamic co-planning, co-facilitating, and co-teaching environments across a multitude of grade levels," said Pallagi. "This innovative model has allowed our teachers to become true masters of their

craft both veteran and novice teachers alike. The accountability system put in place for teachers through ongoing graduate-level coursework allows for collaboration, data-driven discussions, small group instruction, and meeting the diverse needs of all our students.”

Pinehurst, which boasts the largest percentage of Multilingual Learners in the state (80% of the student population speaks a language other than English at home), now provides the opportunity to meet the needs of all of its students through the Clemson Residency Project. With two certified teachers in the classroom, teachers and administrators are able to address both the academic and social needs of students, fostering a thriving classroom environment where they can truly excel.

“Our district is honored to receive such a notable opportunity and is looking forward to continued collaboration in our efforts to serve children well,” said Superintendent Anita Huggins. “Partnerships such as this further foster our mission of serving every student. This collaborative effort benefits our educators, and for that we are thankful. Most importantly, it creates an environment where our scholars can thrive.”

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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.