

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:**

Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

## Media Release

### **Four CCSD schools honored for providing female students with Computer Science opportunities**

Office of Communications

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

**Michelle Mills**  
Associate of Communications

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is committed to offering rigorous offerings for all students, including Career and Technical Education courses that open doors for students to pursue high-paying, highly competitive careers. The College Board recognizes the district's efforts as well, as four high schools were recently honored with the AP (Advanced Placement) Computer Science Female Diversity Award: Burke High School, Charleston County School of the Arts, Lucy Beckham High School, and R.B. Stall High School.

Schools receiving the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have either reached 50 percent or higher female exam taker representation in one or both AP computer science courses, or a percentage of female computer science exam takers that meets or exceeds that of the school's female population. All four recipients from CCSD earned the honor with AP Computer Science Principles (CSP).

"Females in Charleston County School District continue to outpace South Carolina performance levels for nontraditional program enrollment," said Rich Gordon, CCSD's Executive Director of Career and Technical Education. "Yes, this achievement is certainly due to program access, exposure, and encouragement, but let's not forget about the inalienable ingredient - our rockstar female students!"

Close to 850 schools were honored nationwide (including 25 in South Carolina) for their work toward equal female representation in AP CSP in the 2023-2024 school year.

These institutions represent a broad range of high schools from across the country and around the world. They include private, public, and charter schools, large and small student bodies, rural and urban populations, and specialized high schools, along with generalized programs.

Providing female students access to computer science courses is crucial to ensure they'll be set up for technology jobs where they can drive innovation and creativity in the field. Research demonstrates that women are more likely to pursue computer science if they are given the opportunity to explore it in high school.

- According to [College Board research](#), **female students who take AP CSP in high school are more than 5 times as likely to major in computer science in college**, compared to similar students who did not take CSP.
- The [median annual wage](#) for computer and information technology occupations was \$88,240 in May 2019. According to the [Bureau of Labor Statistics for 2021](#), women represent just 26% of the 5.6 million people in computing occupations.
- Despite growing demand, women still only earn 21 percent of computer science bachelor's degrees and make up 34 percent of the STEM workforce, according to the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#).
- A [Microsoft study](#) found that girls often assume the sciences don't align with their desire to be creative and make an impact in the world.

For additional 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.