

For Immediate Release
May 6, 2025

Contact:
Andy Pruitt, 843-937-6583

Media Release

CCSD Acceleration Schools **participate in Junior Achievement Biz** **Town**

Office of
Communications

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

Michelle A. Mills
Associate of Communications

Charleston, SC - Charleston County School District and Acceleration Schools hosted the 2025 Inaugural [Junior Achievement BizTown Charleston](#). Junior Achievement (JA) is the world's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices.

This exciting event took place this week at North Charleston Elementary School, and seven schools had the opportunity to expose scholars to an interactive, hands-on program that combines classroom learning with real-world experience to teach students about economics, business, and financial literacy. JA BizTown combines in-class learning with a day-long visit to a simulated town. This popular learning experience allows elementary school students to operate banks, manage restaurants, write checks, and vote for mayor. Students are able to connect the dots between what they learn in school and the real world.

Through this engaging experience, students develop essential skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and decision-making while gaining a deeper understanding of how a community operates. BizTown aims to inspire young learners to explore careers, understand financial independence, and become responsible citizens.

In preparation, instructional materials were provided to teachers from Chicora Elementary School, Julian Mitchell Elementary School, North Charleston Elementary School, Pepperhill Elementary School, Stono Park Elementary School, and W.B. Goodwin Elementary School before students arrived at Biz Town. According to Jacqueline Haynes, Associate Superintendent of Acceleration Schools, students from CCSD Acceleration Schools brought their learning to life through an engaging, hands-on simulation. After eight weeks of studying financial literacy, they entered real-world roles such as mayor, chief financial officer, leasing agents, and non-profit organizers, working together to operate a fully functioning mini-economy.

"It was inspiring to witness how quickly students collaborated, embraced their responsibilities, and connected the experience to both schoolwork and everyday life," said Haynes. "One student said he now knows what it feels like to be an adult. In another decisive moment, a student attempted to buy a home but lacked the necessary funds. After being sent to the bank for a loan - and ultimately denied - the student reflected on the disappointment, turning it into a lesson in budgeting and financial planning. The level of enthusiasm, teamwork, and responsibility that students demonstrated throughout the experience was remarkable. Their passion made these four days truly memorable." Over 100 volunteers and chaperones from the district, schools, and community per day made the week-long event possible.

"It has been an exciting week to launch JA BizTown Mobile at North Charleston Elementary with seven different elementary schools," said Casey Pash, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Greater Charleston, SC. "During the simulation this week, each fifth-grade student had a job, earned a paycheck, worked, and paid taxes. Our goal at Junior Achievement is to teach students skillsets and mindsets, and we know that students learned workforce and financial literacy skills this week. These skills will prepare them for their future and help build thriving communities in Charleston County."

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.