



**James Island Elementary
School**

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Media Release

Jamie Meissner Named 2025 SIC Advocate of the Year

Charleston, S.C. - The SC School Improvement Council (SC-SIC) named Jamie Meissner of James Island Elementary School as the recipient of the 2025 SIC Advocate of the Year Award. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals and groups who go above and beyond to support School Improvement Councils (SICs) across South Carolina, significantly contributing to the advancement of public education in their schools, districts, and communities.

Meissner's tireless dedication to student success and school improvement has set a powerful example of grassroots leadership in action. Over the past seven years, she has served as an elected parent representative and chair on three different SICs on James Island. Through her leadership, she has been instrumental in building connections between councils and promoting collaboration across schools.

One of Meissner's most notable accomplishments is championing the #oneisland initiative—a unifying, community-driven campaign designed to bring James Island families together and strengthen ties as students transition from elementary to middle and high school. This initiative has inspired popular events such as #oneisland Camp Road Middle School (CRMS) Science Fair & Math Competition, which includes students from all Constituent District 3 schools - CRMS, Harbor View Elementary School, James Island Charter School, James Island Elementary School, Murray-LaSaine Montessori School, and Stiles Point Elementary School. The second year brought more than 240 science fair submissions, 50 math competition students, and over 400 attendees. Meissner recognizes that without the support of Janese Davis, Shalea Griggs, Allison King, and Rev. Cynthia E. Smalls, and the District 3 principals, this community event would not have been possible.

"I am honored to be recognized, and continue to be thankful for all that my James Island School Improvement Council work has given me," said Meissner. "When we invest in our young people, shower our educators with kindness, and offer a helping hand to our neighbor, we can achieve so much together."

Beyond community events, Meissner has been a fierce advocate for impactful change. She championed shared staffing solutions to expand music education,

contributed meaningfully to district engagement efforts, and consistently supported policies that reflect the needs and voices of students and families.

“Jamie is a dedicated parent and community member who truly cares deeply about our students, families, and schools,” says Maggie Dangerfield, SC-SIC Board of Trustees Member and Charleston County School District Director of Strategic Engagement. “Her work and involvement in SIC over the past seven years have been a tremendous asset to our district, and we are grateful for her dedication, passion, and advocacy.”

The SIC Advocate of the Year Award celebrates those who demonstrate exceptional commitment to school improvement. Past recipients include educators, public officials, and community leaders who share a passion for strengthening South Carolina’s public schools. Jamie Meissner now joins this distinguished group, recognized for her visionary leadership and steadfast advocacy.

Additionally, Edith L. Frierson Montessori SIC was named a [finalist](#) for the 2025 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. This prestigious honor celebrates the remarkable efforts of School Improvement Councils (SICs) in fostering meaningful family and civic engagement within their school communities.

Named in honor of former South Carolina Governor and U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley and his late wife, Tunky Riley, this award celebrates their lifelong commitment to empowering public education and strengthening school-community partnerships. SC-SIC, part of the Center for Educational Partnerships within the University of South Carolina College of Education, has been a driving force in educational progress for nearly 45 years. The organization provides essential training, technical assistance, and operational support to help local SICs thrive in every corner of the state.

For more information about the SIC Advocate of the Year Award or School Improvement Councils, visit sc-sic.org.

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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.