ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
We Are One
102 Founders Court • Orangeburg, SC 29118
Phone: (803) 534-5454

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **Monday, July 21, 2025**

Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications
and Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org



Mrs. Debra Ard

Orangeburg County School District's Debra Ard Named 2024–2025 Administrator of the Year at the SCAPT 50th Anniversary Conference

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District is thrilled to announce that Mrs. Debra Ard**,** Transportation Supervisor, has been selected as the 2024–2025 Administrator of the Year by the South Carolina Association of Pupil Transportation (SCAPT). The award was presented during SCAPT's 50th Anniversary Conference**,** held on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at the DoubleTree Resort in Myrtle Beach.

This distinguished honor highlights Mrs. Ard's exceptional service spanning more than 40 years to the students and families of Orangeburg County. From her beginnings in the former

Orangeburg District 4 to her current role in the consolidated district, she has served in numerous capacities—teacher's assistant, bus driver, driver trainer, secretary**,** and now transportation supervisor—always with professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering focus on student safety.

"Mrs. Ard is the embodiment of quiet strength and steadfast leadership," said Dr. Jesse Washington**,** Assistant Superintendent of Operations. "Her longevity, dedication, and integrity have anchored our operations team and left a lasting imprint on school transportation statewide. This award is a well-earned reflection of her enduring impact."

The surprise recognition was made during a special awards ceremony attended by transportation professionals from across the state, district staff, and members of Mrs. Ard's family—including her son and grandchildren—who proudly witnessed the heartfelt celebration.

"Mrs. Ard is one of the cornerstones of OCSD," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster**,** Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District. "She represents the very best of public service—faithful, humble, and deeply committed to students. Her story is of selfless leadership and consistent excellence, and we're honored to have her as part of our team."

Keith Terry**,** Director of Transportation, added, "Working alongside Debra Ard has been a privilege. Her insight, calm presence, and principled leadership have helped shape the culture of our department and set a standard that others across the state admire. This recognition couldn't be more fitting."

The SCAPT Administrator of the Year Award is presented to a school transportation leader in South Carolina who exemplifies visionary leadership, operational excellence, and a deep commitment to student well-being. Honoring Mrs. Ard as part of the association's golden anniversary was a fitting tribute to her decades of extraordinary service.

Orangeburg County School District proudly congratulates Mrs. Debra Ard on this outstanding achievement and extends sincere appreciation to all of our transportation team members. From early morning routes to late evening returns, our transportation professionals are essential to our mission. Their commitment, care, and consistency make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students every day.

Also, to learn more about OCSD, please contact Dr. Erica S. Taylor, Assistant Superintendent for Communications and Business and Community Partnerships, at erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org or 839-356-4040.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

###