

Department of School Support & Community Engagement

2024-25 Year in Review



For the scholars, we will **LEAD** this work.
For the families, we will **SERVE** in the work.
For the schools, we will **SUPPORT** this work.
For the communities, we will **ENGAGE** in this work.

Greetings,

It is with great pride that we present this Year in Review, highlighting the work of the Department of School Support (DoSS) and the numerous partnerships that contributed to making the 2024-2025 academic year a success. Each page reflects the dedication of our schools, families, community, and the DoSS team who came together to ensure every student had the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

From engagement events and outreach initiatives to programs that uplifted both staff, students, and their families this year was a powerful reminder that education extends beyond the classroom—it is built through collaboration, compassion, and a commitment to excellence. As we celebrate these accomplishments, we look ahead with confidence and determination, continuing to strengthen connections and create brighter futures for the students of Charleston County.

With gratitude,

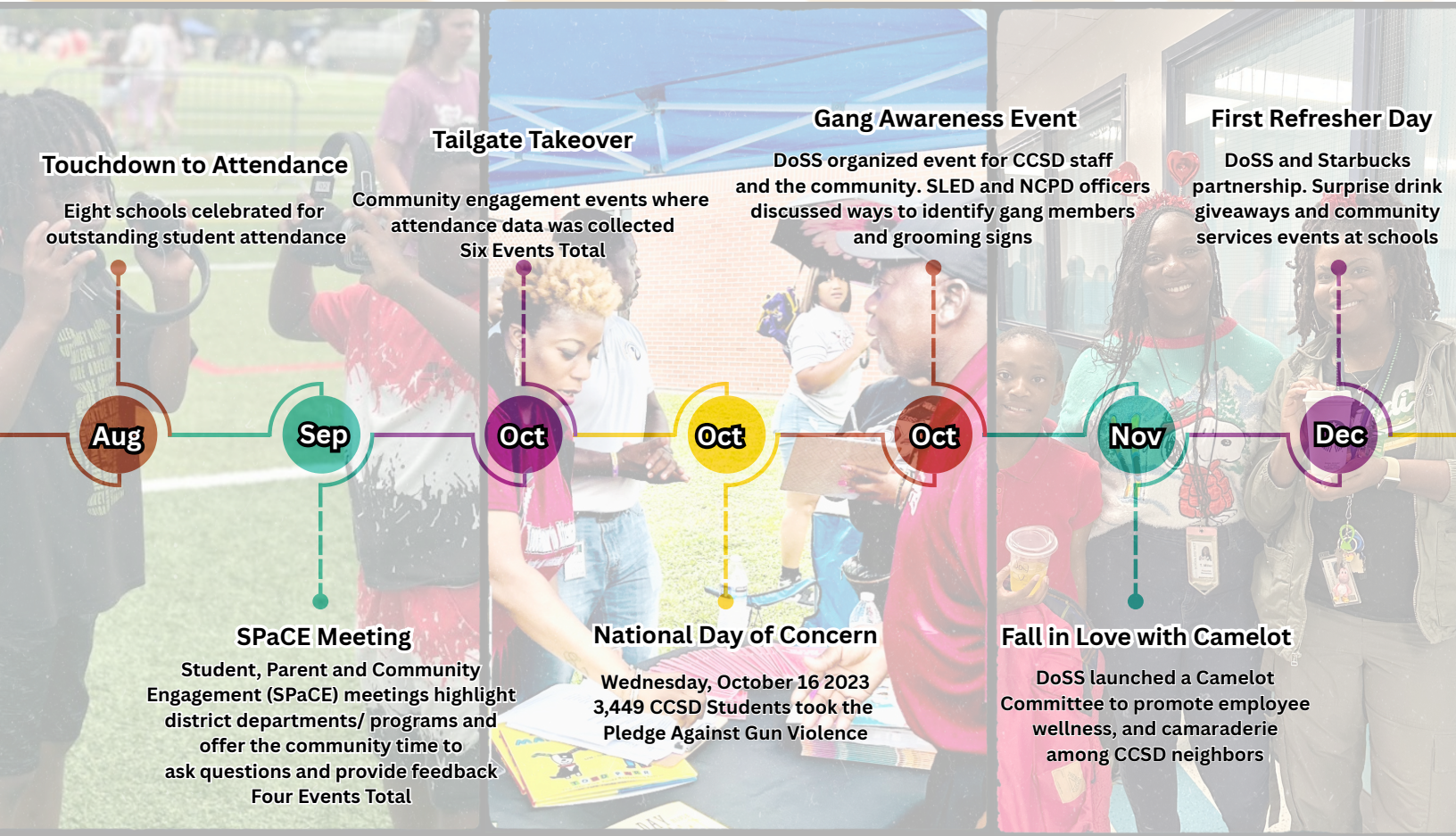
Associate Superintendent

Department of School Support & Community Engagement

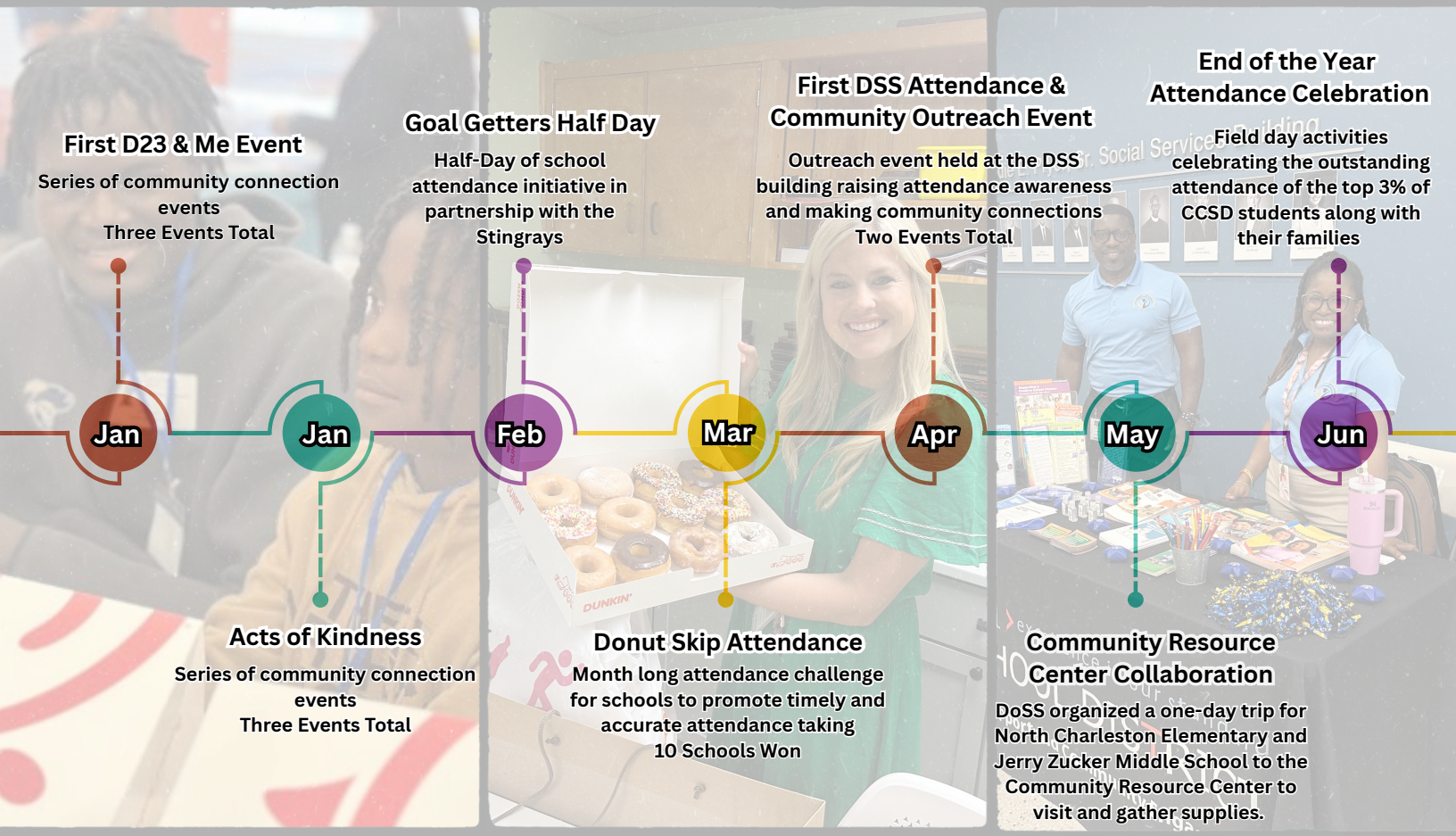




Highlight Events



Doss held 35 community engagement events in the 2024-2025 academic year.



DoSS supported 54 community engagement events in the 2024-2025 academic year.

Student Attendance

Student attendance is often reflective of the barriers families face. By working with families and removing these obstacles, students can attend consistently, stay engaged, and reach their full potential.



Pictures from the 24-25 annual CCSD Attendance Celebration held by DoSS, celebrating students with outstanding attendance records at the end of each academic year.



Spotlight Story: Touchdown to Attendance

In an innovative effort to connect with families and students, the Department of School Support (DoSS) launched the “Touchdown to Attendance: Tailgate Takeovers” initiative during six of the district’s biggest rivalry football matchups.

During these events, staff distributed surveys to gather real-time data on the challenges our communities face regarding consistent school attendance. The feedback offered valuable insight into numerous barriers that prevent students from showing up every day.

Top five barriers according to results:

- 1. Transportation**
- 2. Financial Concerns**
- 3. Childcare**
- 4. Housing**
- 5. Medical Concerns**

Spotlight Story: Donut Skip Attendance

Throughout the month of March, Charleston County School District launched the “Donut Skip Attendance” Challenge to promote accurate and timely attendance reporting across schools.

The challenge sparked a spirit of collaboration, with teams working toward a common goal—keeping attendance top of mind. Accurate reporting plays a critical role in student success, and this initiative served as a reminder that every day truly counts.

Ten schools were recognized for their outstanding efforts with a faculty donut day from DoSS—coffee included!

**A special thank you to all our community partners for generously supporting this initiative.*

Sweet Victory Winners:

- Bell Hall Elementary
- E.B. Ellington Elementary
- Goodwin Elementary
- Harborview Elementary
- Lambs Elementary
- Laurel Hill Elementary
- Memminger Elementary
- Mount Zion Elementary
- Oakland Elementary
- Pinehurst Elementary



74 Truancy Hearings

These hearings provided an opportunity to meet with the student and family to discuss the challenges affecting school attendance. Together, we worked to identify and remove those barriers so the student could return to school consistently and successfully.

Additional Attendance Initiatives

- Attendance Trainings
 - Attendance 101: The Basics
 - Attendance 201: Attendance Intervention Plan
 - Attendance 301: Tiers of Strategies & Interventions
- Touchdown to Attendance
- Goal Getters Challenge
- Attendance Support Request Form
- Community Outreach Events
- Student, Parent & Community Engagement Meetings
 - Attendance Education
- Attendance Videos
- Attendance Promotional Content

Community Engagement

Community engagement connects families, schools, and partners to reduce barriers to attendance and keep students present and engaged. These efforts also encouraged positive behavior, helping students focus on learning and building skills for the future.



Spotlight Story: D23 & Me

DoSS assisted the D23 schools in launching a series of "D23 & Me" community engagement events designed to bring families, schools, and community partners together in celebration of learning and connection.

The series launched on January 11, 2025, with the D23 School Showcase, where EB Ellington, Jane Edwards, Minnie Hughes, and Baptist Hill Middle & High highlighted academic progress, initiatives, and future goals. Principals led presentations, families explored resource tables from district departments, and guests enjoyed concessions like popcorn, muffins, and a hot chocolate bar.

On March 8, 2025, the series continued with "Fishin' 4 Families" at Baptist Hill Middle High, a vibrant event featuring free food, prizes, and support services. Students, families, and

community partners gathered for a day of fellowship and resources, reinforcing the district's commitment to community ties.



The series closed with D23 & Me: Movie Night Under the Stars at E.B. Ellington on the school field. Families relaxed on blankets and chairs while enjoying a screening of Madagascar, paired with delicious food truck fare and PTO concessions.

Together, the D23 & Me events showcased the power of partnerships, highlighted the progress of District 23 schools, and created meaningful moments for families to connect with their schools and one another.



Spotlight Story: Big Buc, Little Buc

CCSD partnered with Charleston Southern University to launch the Big Buc, Little Buc mentorship program at Ladson Elementary. Fifth-grade students met weekly with CSU basketball players during lunch and recess to build meaningful connections through games and conversation. The five-week program culminated in a visit to a CSU basketball game, celebrating the power of mentorship, teamwork, and community.



Overview of Events

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Department of School Support (DoSS) participated in 87 community engagement events across Charleston County, strengthening connections between schools, families, and community partners.

Highlights included *Refresher Days*, which re-energized students and staff with a Starbucks mobile café that made surprise visits to several schools, and partnerships with the North Charleston Resource Center to provide food, clothing, hygiene products, and career readiness programs to local students and families. DoSS also led attendance outreach and student registration initiatives, helping ensure students were enrolled, present, and prepared for success.

Additionally, DoSS received a generous donation from the Carlos Dunlap Foundation and Carlos Cares, providing brand-new clothing and skincare products from Ralph Lauren, Ann Taylor, and The Loft to teachers and staff, which DoSS coordinated for distribution.

These events reflect the power of partnership, creativity, and commitment in building stronger school communities.

87

Community Engagement Events

Were organized or supported by DoSS.



Student Discipline

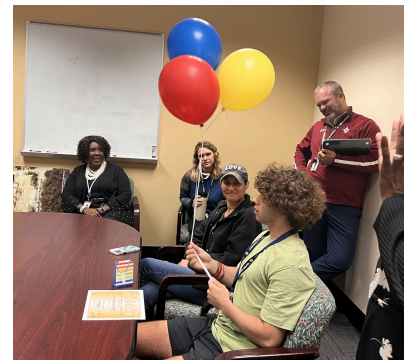
When addressing student behaviors, DoSS emphasizes restorative practices, focusing on accountability, reflection, and growth. By addressing behavior through support and positive relationships, schools create safer and more respectful learning environments where students can learn from their mistakes and stay engaged in their education.

Prevention & Intervention Facilitators

Prevention and Intervention Facilitators (PIFs) are dedicated members of the Department of School Support & Community Engagement who work directly with students requiring additional academic and behavioral support.

PIFs provide one-on-one mentoring, guidance, and resources to help students successfully navigate challenges, stay engaged in school, and build positive habits. PIFs play a crucial role in creating safe and supportive learning environments throughout the district.

724
Referral packets
Were submitted to the
Department of School Support



Student Celebrations

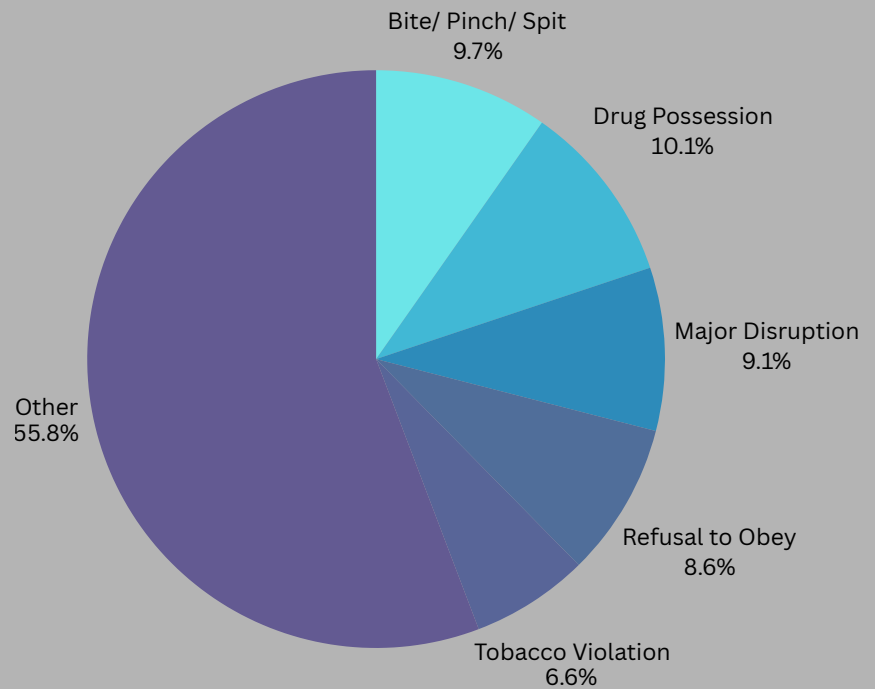
DoSS PIFs celebrated students for commendable behavior and improved academic performance while on Level 2 probation. Through mentoring, academic support, and guidance, PIFs helped students make positive behavioral changes and stay on track for success. Students were recognized for their achievements with pictures, balloons, flowers, and gift cards, highlighting the importance of encouragement in fostering growth.

PIVOT

PIVOT (Preventive Intervention through Vigorous Organized Training) is an initiative founded by DoSS, dedicated to supporting at-risk youth by enhancing their social and emotional development.

Student referrals from schools, combined with mentorship, skill-building activities, and targeted programs, allow PIVOT to empower students to make positive decisions, foster personal growth, and achieve academic success.

Top Five Offenses During the 2024-2025 Academic Year



Data based on total number of offenses committed (by packet submitted)

Spotlight Story: National Day of Concern



CCSD participated in the National Day of Concern Against Gun Violence on October 16, 2024, joining schools nationwide in raising awareness and promoting unity.

Led by the DoSS, students across the district signed the National Student Pledge Against Gun Violence, committing to non-violence and responsible conflict resolution. Schools also shared youth gun violence statistics and hosted student-led discussions, encouraging meaningful dialogue about safety and prevention.

This initiative reflected CCSD’s commitment to fostering safe and supportive learning environments, empowering students to be advocates for peace in their communities.

Alternative Programs: ReThink, ReFocus, ReImagine

The CCSD introduced the ReTHINK, ReFOCUS, ReIMAGINE initiative at the start of the 2024–2025 school year as a bold new action plan to transform the approach to alternative education. Developed under the leadership of Dr. Shavonna Coakley, Associate Superintendent of the Department of School Support & Community Engagement, the plan provides students facing disciplinary challenges with a structured pathway for academic success, personal growth, and reintegration into their home schools. The mission is clear: guide students to ReTHINK through self-reflection, ReFOCUS by moving away from disruptive behaviors, and ReIMAGINE their future by striving for academic excellence and positive social engagement.

At the core of the initiative is a comprehensive set of restorative steps designed to ensure long-term success. Students are expected to meet behavioral expectations, make academic progress, engage in social-emotional learning, involve their parents or guardians, and complete a school-based project or restitution. Family involvement is a key component, recognizing that the support of parents and guardians is essential to each student’s growth and restoration. More than a disciplinary response, ReTHINK, ReFOCUS, ReIMAGINE represents CCSD’s commitment to providing students with the tools to overcome challenges, embrace personal responsibility, and successfully return to their school communities with a renewed sense of purpose.

Temporary Virtual Placement

302
Students Enrolled
in TVP

The Temporary Virtual Placement (TVP) program provides an alternative to out-of-school suspension for students awaiting a Level 3 expulsion hearing. By offering a virtual option, TVP supported continued learning while prioritizing the safety of schools and maintaining attendance rates. This approach ensured students stayed engaged academically rather than being counted absent during suspensions.

Overview of Alternative Programs

CCSD alternative programs offer a structured, supportive environment for students needing non-traditional learning pathways. With smaller class sizes, specialized staff, and individualized support, it focuses on academic success, social-emotional growth, and behavioral development to help students transition back to their home schools.

Liberty Hill Academy – An alternative education school to which students are assigned, serving grades K–8.

Daniel Jenkins Academy – A alternative education school to which students are assigned, serving grades 9–12.

Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy – An alternative education school that students opt to enroll into through an application process. It is an excellent choice for any 9th–12th grade student who thrive in a smaller class setting and/or are looking to graduate on time or early!

Turning Point Academy – An alternative education school to which students are assigned due to behavior violation or substance use, serving grades 6–12.

91%

of students did not return in front of the board after being placed on probation or at an alternative program.

Spotlight Story: Clark Academy Senior Ceremony

Septima P. Clark Corporate Academy proudly celebrated the achievements of its graduating seniors with family, friends, staff, and community members in attendance. Mayor Reggie Burgess of North Charleston delivered an inspiring keynote address, reminding graduates that resilience, discipline, and purpose will carry them far beyond the classroom.



As one of CCSD’s alternative programs, Clark provides personalized instruction and support for students on non-traditional learning paths. This graduation marked an important milestone for students before they walked the stage at their home-zoned high schools later in the season.

Community Partners & Sponsors

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors and community partners.

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Wellness Center

Charleston Southern
University

Babb Law Firm

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Our focus will continue to be on strengthening attendance, **ensuring safe and orderly schools**, expanding partnerships, and building bridges between classrooms and communities.

75

**New Community
Connections**

As we close this Year in Review, we do so with gratitude for all that has been accomplished and excitement for the journey ahead. The Department of School Support remains committed to showing up, standing alongside our schools, and ensuring that every student has what they need to succeed.

In 2025–2026, you will see even more of our team’s boots on the ground efforts—in schools, neighborhoods, and community spaces—meeting families where they are and connecting them to resources that make a real difference. Our focus will continue to be on strengthening attendance, expanding partnerships, and building bridges between classrooms and communities.

Together, we will carry forward the momentum of this past year, working with purpose, compassion, and determination to create brighter futures for every student in Charleston County.

Dr. C~that's me and #TeamDoSS!



**Together, we celebrate a year of partnership,
progress, and purpose—building stronger
schools and brighter futures for every
student in Charleston County.**

