

# WHALE BRANCH EARLY COLLEGE HIGH



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 2025

# Meet the Admin Team!!





## Agenda

- Principal's Report
- School Goals
- MedTech 7
- Nominations



# PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



WHALE  
BRANCH  
EARLY COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Starting the School Year Warrior Strong!!

- 100% Staffed at Whale Branch
- Acquired 1 New Instructional Coach
- Newly Formed Leadership Team
  - Administration
  - Instructional Team
  - Lead Teachers
- Focus Areas
  - Climate and Culture
  - STEM Certification
  - Streamline Counselors and Accountability Areas
    - CCR and Student Success Rate



WHALE  
BRANCH  
EARLY COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Starting the School Year Warrior Strong!!

- Principal meetings with Cluster Area Schools to ensure academic success and preparation

## Special Programs

- Technical College of the Lowcountry (TCL) Partnership
- MedTech 7



WHALE  
BRANCH  
EARLY COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

# Starting the School Year Warrior Strong!!

- On-Time Graduation Data Analysis
  - 3 Focus Areas
    - Academics
    - Attendance
    - Discipline
- We are aggressively working hard to achieve EXCELLENT on our SCHOOL REPORT CARD
- Hosted **OPEN HOUSE** August 21st
  -



WHALE  
BRANCH  
EARLY COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

# EOC Performance

Our focus is grounded in data that highlights both our strengths and areas for growth:

- 66% (A-C) in English, 80% (A-D)
- 49% (A-C) in Algebra I, 84% (A-D)
- 54%(A-C) in Biology, 74% (A-D)
- 20% (A-C) in U.S. History 40% (A-D)

# School Goal

Increase EOC Performance by 3% on all EOCs.



## Overview of the Med-Tech 7 Grant

Dee Appleby, Program Director



**cognia**



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SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | ARTS | MATHEMATICS

# Pathway to Technology Professions K-12

Kindergarten - 5th grade



6th - 8th grades



9th - 12th grades



## Whale Branch Elementary

- Project Lead the Way Launch
  - Life Science
  - Structure and Function
  - Animals and Algorithms
  - Light and Sound
  - Input/Output: Computer Systems
  - Robotics and Automation
- zSpace
  - Franklin's Lab
  - Euclid's Shapes
  - VIVED Science
- STEAM



## Partnerships

- Arts Integration Council
- Technical College of the Lowcountry
- Marine Corps Air Station
- Boys & Girls Club of the Lowcountry
- USC-Beaufort
- Beaufort Digital Corridor
- Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce

## Whale Branch Middle School

- Project Lead the Way Gateway
  - Automation and Robotics
  - Design and Modeling
  - App Creators
  - Medical Detectives
  - Computer Science for Innovators
- zSpace
  - Franklin's Lab
  - VIVED Science
  - StudioA3
  - Newton's Park
- SmartLabs
  - CNC Milling
  - Padcaster
  - Laser Engraving
  - Drones
  - Energy Sources
- STEAM



## Whale Branch Early College High School

- Project Lead the Way Gateway
  - Computer Science Essentials
  - Computer Science Principles
  - Cybersecurity
  - Intro to Engineering Design
  - Principles of Engineering
  - Civil Engineering
- zSpace
  - VIVED Anatomy
  - VIVED Chemistry
  - VIVED Science
- STEAM
- eSPORTS Club





# Overview of the Grant:



- Funded by US Department of Education Elementary and Secondary Education Department: Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP) to support equity and access in education.
- Focus:** Implementing an arts-integrated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) curriculum across two school clusters: Beaufort (Medical) and Whale Branch (IT/Cybersecurity) in Beaufort County School District.
- Goals:**
  - Increase diversity.
  - Reduce minority group isolation.
  - Enhance academic achievement through specialized programs.



## Importance of STEM Certification:



- Ensures that schools meet high standards in delivering STEM education.
- **Alignment with National Standards:** Certification aligns programs with national STEM education standards to promote consistency and quality.
- **Encourages Best Practices:** Encourages the adoption of innovative and evidence-based teaching practices that improve student outcomes.
- **Prepares Students for Future Careers:** Supports career readiness by equipping students with critical skills needed in high-demand STEM fields.



# BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



## **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

DEE APPLEBY – [deirdre.Appleby@beaufort.k12.sc.us](mailto:deirdre.Appleby@beaufort.k12.sc.us)



# TITLE I OVERVIEW



# What is Title I?

- Title I is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.
- Title I is designed to provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps. (ESEA section 1001)
- The program serves millions of children in elementary and secondary schools each year.
- There are currently **18 Title I Schools** in the Beaufort County School District.



# Beaufort County Title I Schools



- Beaufort Elementary
- Beaufort Middle School
- Broad River Elementary
- Hilton Head Island Early Childhood Center
- Hilton Head Island School for the Creative Arts
- Hilton Head Island Elementary
- Lady's Island Elementary
- Lady's Island Middle School
- MC Riley Elementary
- Mossy Oaks Elementary
- Port Royal Elementary
- Red Cedar Elementary
- Robert Smalls International Academy
- Shanklin Elementary
- St. Helena Elementary
- Whale Branch Early College High School
- Whale Branch Elementary
- Whale Branch Middle



# How does Title I Work?



- The federal government provides funding to states based on census and poverty data each year for Title I.
- The South Carolina Department of Education sends the money to the local school districts.
- The school district identifies eligible schools based off of their percentage of Pupils in Poverty and provides a Title I allocation.



# A Title I Schoolwide Program



All Title I schools in the BCSD implement a schoolwide program.

- In a schoolwide program, a school may use Title I funds to implement reforms to upgrade the entire educational program of the school.
- There are three requirements of a Title I Schoolwide program and the school must:
  - Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment through a broad range of stakeholders.
  - Create a comprehensive School Renewal Plan that describes how the school will improve academic achievement throughout the school
  - Annually, evaluate the schoolwide plan to determine if the schoolwide program has been effective in addressing the major problem areas and, in turn, increasing student achievement, particularly for the lowest-achieving students. Schools must revise the plan as necessary.



# Determining How Title I Funds Are Used



- Each school has a school advisory committee composed of parents, teachers, other staff that work at the school, community representatives and the principal.
- In Beaufort County School District, the School Improvement Council (SIC) usually serves as the school advisory committee
- A comprehensive needs assessment is completed each year
- Goals are developed for the school year and a School Renewal Plan is written
- The SIC approves the Title I budget for the school which is a funding source to support the School Renewal Plan.



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# School Goals Developed from Needs Assessment



- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students scoring a C or higher on the English II EOCEP will improve from 56.1% to 71%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students scoring a C or higher on the Algebra 1 EOCEP will improve from 49.2% to 56.2%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students scoring a C or higher on the Biology EOCEP will improve from 35.8% to 37.5%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students scoring a C or higher on the US History EOCEP will improve from 18.5% to 26.5%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of students who graduate college or career-ready will improve from 68.1% to 79%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the graduation rate will improve from 83.2% to 91%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the multilingual learner's progress as measured by the SC School Report Card will improve from 40% to 42%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the on-time student success as measured by the SC School Report Card will improve from 81.1% to 82.9%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of teacher retention will improve from 81.3% to 83.3%.
- By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, the SC School Report Card's climate score will increase from 3.25 out of 5 points to 3.5 out of 5 points.



## Our School's Title I Activities: Program Evaluation



- Three Parent Meetings/Open Houses
- 3 STEM Nights
- Freshman Orientation
- Senior Nights
- Brunch with the Principal
- Skills USA
- College Visits



# 2022-2023 School Performance



## 2022-2023 Overall Rating

**Average**  
**54**

**Serving Grades:** 9-12  
**Student Enrollment:** 476  
**Principal:** Davina Coleman

Our school's vision is to be a high-performing school that provides all students the opportunity to excel. To make this vision a reality, we co...[More]

School performance meets the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate

### High School Overall Ratings Points

Excellent *	67 to 100
Good	60 to 66
Average	51 to 59
Below Average	40 to 50
Unsatisfactory	39 and below

## ACADEMICS



Academic Achievement

Average



Preparing For Success

Unsatisfactory



Multilingual Learners' Progress

Average



Graduation Rate

Good



College & Career Readiness

Good



High School Student Success

Not Rated



State Goals

## SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



School Climate

Average



Classroom Environment

Not Rated



Student Safety

Not Rated



Financial Data

Not Rated



# 2023-2024 School Performance



## 2023-2024 Overall Rating

**Good  
61**

**Serving Grades:** 9-12  
**Student Enrollment:** 450  
**Principal:** Davina Coleman

Our school's vision is to be a high-performing school that provides all students the opportunity to excel. To make this vision a reality, we co...[More]

School performance exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate

### High School Overall Ratings Points

Excellent *	67 to 100
Good	60 to 66
Average	51 to 59
Below Average	40 to 50
Unsatisfactory	39 and below

### ACADEMICS

<p><b>Academic Achievement</b></p> <p>Average</p>	<p><b>Preparing For Success</b></p> <p>Below Average</p>	<p><b>Multilingual Learners' Progress</b></p> <p>Not Rated</p>	<p><b>Graduation Rate</b></p> <p>Good</p>
<p><b>College &amp; Career Readiness</b></p> <p>Excellent</p>	<p><b>High School Student Success</b></p> <p>Average</p>	<p><b>State Goals</b></p>	<p><b>School Goals</b></p>

### SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

<p><b>School Climate</b></p> <p>Average</p>	<p><b>Classroom Environment</b></p> <p>Not Rated</p>	<p><b>Student Safety</b></p> <p>Not Rated</p>	<p><b>Financial Data</b></p> <p>Not Rated</p>
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# School Curriculum



## WBECHS Curriculum – Early College Program, MedTech7 and STEAM

English Textbooks

Math Textbooks

Science Textbooks

Social Studies/History Textbooks



# Parent and Family Engagement



- The Title I law requires that all Title I schools and families work together.
- How our school works with our families is listed in the following documents
  - Parent-School Compact
  - Parental and Family Engagement Policy
- Each of these documents are distributed to parents each year and your feedback on these documents is very much appreciated because they are reviewed each Spring and updated if necessary.



# Parent and Family Engagement: School Compact



- Outlines the shared responsibilities of the school, parent, and students in order to support high student achievement
- Distributed and signed by parents each year: The compact was distributed at Open House on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Also, compacts was distributed to homeroom teachers to give to students. A BrightArrow alert was sent with the compact attached informing parents to return the signed compact to school.
- Is reviewed yearly during the Spring planning process with input from parents.



# Parent and Family Engagement Policy



- Includes activities intended to engage parents, in a meaningful way in the development, implementation, and review of the parental involvement program.
- Development allows for parents to give input on important issues pertaining to school and community.
- Parents work with school staff to write the Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- Distributed and posted to school's website each year. The policy will be sent via BrightArrow
- Evaluated in the spring and any revisions are made with SIC



# Planned Parent Engagement Activities



- **Open House** – Parent Engagement Policy and Parent, Student, Teacher, Compact will be distributed on September 12, 2024.
- **Title I Parent Meeting** - SIC meetings will be held the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.
- **Parent Night for Arts Integration Awareness** -
- **STEAM Day/Night** -
- **Class Information Nights** – Senior Parent and Student Information Night will be held October 2, 2024
- **Freshman Orientation** – will be held in July 2024 for students and parents to meet teachers and tour the school.
- **Community Outreach Night** – Parents and the community will be invited to our September 6<sup>th</sup> football game.
- **Community Food Distribution** – Parents will be invited to a food drive on September 20, 2024.
- **Grandparents Luncheon** – In honor of Grandparents Day, grandparents will be invited to eat lunch with their grandchild(ren).
- **Health/Breast Cancer Awareness Community 2-mile Walk/Trunk-A-Treat Contest** – will be held October 24, 2024, for parents, students, and the community.
- **Thanksgiving Luncheon** – will be held November 14, 2024 for parents to eat Thanksgiving meal with their child(ren).
- **Holiday Family Sponsorship** – Families will be sponsored to receive food and gifts for the holiday in December 2024.



# Parenting Set Aside

The Parent Engagement Program Committee allocates funds to foster strong communication and collaboration between families and schools. The committee plans to spend the allocated budget to purchase event supplies, training/promotional supplies, refreshments, staffing, incentives, professional development for staff, literacy workshops, technology workshops, etc. to support the parent engagement program.

Supplies for the Parent Engagement Activities						\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Description of Items	Purpose			Account	Allocation Cost	Set Aside Cost	Total Cost for Activity	
Paint, canvas, aprons, pencils, canvas stands	Parent Night for Art Integration Awareness			201 188 94 541000	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	
school choice parent informational/marketing material	School Choice Day/Night to bring awareness to school focus (i.e. Early College and STEAM)			201 188 94 541000	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Printing</b>						<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
Program Name/Vendor	Purpose			Account	Allocation Cost	Set Aside Cost	Total Cost for Activity	
Alphagraphics /Print Shop/ Display to Go	Material for parent information about the school			201 188 94 536000	\$ 2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00	
<b>Prepared Food Costs for Parent and Community Engagement activities Only</b>						<b>\$ 4,580.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,580.00</b>
Name of Parent Activity	Description of Prepared Food Requested	# of Parents Invited	Grade Level(s)	Notes	Account	Allocation Cost	Set Aside Cost	Total Cost for Activity
Title I Parent Meeting		400	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Parent Night for Arts Integration Awareness		400	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
STEAM Day/Night		400	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Class Information Nights		400	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 1,080.00		\$ 1,080.00
Senior Night		100	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 750.00		\$ 750.00
Freshman Orientation		100	High School		201 188 94 539911	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
<b>Unprepared Food Costs for Parent and Community Engagement activities Only</b>						<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
Name of Parent Activity	Description of Unprepared Food Requested	# of Parents Invited	Grade Level(s)	Notes	Account	Allocation Cost	Set Aside Cost	Total Cost for Activity
Parent Meetings	Hotdogs, nachos, drinks, candy, sandwiches, fruit trays, etc	400	High School		201 188 94 569911	\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total for Parent, Family and Community Engagement Supplies and Food Costs</b>						<b>\$ 9,580.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 9,580.00</b>



# Parents' Rights Under Title I



Each year Title I schools are required to provide certain notifications to parents.

- Parents may request regular meetings to express opinions and concerns – Annual Parent Conferences are required in Title I elementary schools
- Parents must be provided information on their child's level of achievement on local and state assessments.
- Parents must be provided information on their child's level of achievement in Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science;
- Parents may request and receive information on the qualifications of their child's teacher; and
- Parents must be informed if their child is taught by a non-certified teacher for four or more consecutive weeks.



# Parent and Family Engagement



Your engagement is **KEY** to your child's success

- You are your child's first teacher.
- You can influence your child's education more than any teacher or school.
- Choose to volunteer in your child's classroom or participate in other ways such as committee members. (See your school's principal)
- You know your child best:
  - Share information about your child's interests and abilities with teachers; and
  - Ask to see progress reports on your child and the school.



# Simple Ways to Support Your Child's Education



- Share
  - Share a love of learning;
- Read
  - Read to your child;
- Ask
  - Ask your child to read to you;
- Limit
  - Limit TV and computer time;
- Take
  - Take advantage of the public library and the school media center;
- Ask
  - Ask questions and show interest in your child's school day;
- Review
  - Review homework;
- Praise
  - Praise their efforts; and
- Encourage
  - Encourage good study habits.



# Simple Ways Know Your School and Communicate With Teachers



- Attend
  - Attend parent teacher conferences, school events, special parent trainings
- Visit
  - Visit the classroom
- Volunteer
  - Volunteer at the school
- Join
  - Join parents' organizations
- Keep
  - Keep teachers informed
- Engage
  - Engage in discussion about your child's school work and behavior
- Reflect
  - Reflect on the responsibilities as stated in the parent-school compact



# Feedback



Parents may provide suggestions/complaints through our website or scanning the QR code displayed in our school to access the Warrior Civility Survey, or by email.

Questions?

Let's have an amazing school year!