



**Charleston County School District**  
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## Media Release



### **Future Teacher Highlight – Jennifer Solis Lopez**

**Charleston, SC (August 15, 2025)** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud of the work being done to build an internal teacher pipeline. Elevate Charleston is one such program where CCSD works with high school students interested in becoming teachers. Those students go through an internship process during their junior and senior years to get real-world experience in the classroom. The end result is a commitment to become a CCSD teacher once they graduate from college.

CCSD is excited to feature our amazing future educators through a special Future Teacher Highlight series. This spotlight will celebrate high school students currently serving as classroom interns and planning to pursue a career in teaching.

Meet Jennifer Solis Lopez. She is in twelfth Grade at R.B. Stall High School. Lopez is currently interning in Special Education at Pinehurst Elementary School with Amy Cook.

#### **Getting to Know You**

- What inspired you to want to become a teacher?

*What inspired me to become a teacher was growing up with an autistic brother. Growing up, I've always seen how he has struggled to learn, express himself, and connect with other children. Even though he has his challenges, I never underestimated him because he has shown me that it is possible to succeed no matter what obstacles are in the way. I've witnessed how much he has improved, thanks to the support of his teachers, who have played an important role in his life. Just as those teachers made a difference for him, I want to be that kind of teacher for someone else. I want to be able to support, believe in, and empower students to succeed.*

- Do you remember a specific teacher or classroom moment that helped shape your decision to pursue teaching? Please describe it.



*I've always noticed all of my teachers' efforts, even on their bad days, and not one of them has ever given up on me or my education, and that's exactly the kind of teacher I want to be.*

- What subject or grade level do you hope to teach in the future, and why?

*I hope to teach special education in the future because I'm passionate about helping students succeed and making a positive impact in their lives. No matter what difficulties or disabilities a student may have, I believe that everyone has potential. I want to be able to help them realize that potential and make sure they feel valued, supported, and like they truly belong.*

### **Classroom Experience**

- What has been the most meaningful part of your internship experience so far?

*The students will always be the most meaningful part of my internship experience. Every morning, they motivate me to start the day with a positive attitude. Working with them is one of the best feelings, because it keeps me connected to what I truly love, which is helping them grow and accomplish their goals.*

- What is one thing you've learned during your internship that surprised or inspired you?

*When I was told about this internship opportunity, I immediately knew it was something I wanted to pursue, but I felt hesitant. As a naturally shy person, I overthought the decision because I had low confidence and I doubted whether I would be a good fit. I will never regret accepting this opportunity because it helped me learn that I don't have to be perfect to become a teacher. I quickly connected with the students, and I found myself stepping into the role with confidence I didn't know I had.*

- How has working with students changed or strengthened your desire to become a teacher?

*Working with the students strengthened my desire to become a teacher because it gave me firsthand experience of the impact I can make through my support. Every time I help a student better understand their work or solve a problem, their appreciation motivates me, and I have witnessed how it inspires them to help others, which is something I'm truly proud of.*

### **Looking Ahead**

- What are your plans after high school (college, major, career goals)?

*I'm still deciding what my plan is going to be after high school, but I'm sure that I want to pursue a bachelor's degree in special education.*

- How do you hope to make a difference as a future educator?

*As a future educator, I hope to make a difference by creating a classroom that is supportive and inclusive, where every student feels seen, valued, and capable of*

*success. My goal is to be able to build their confidence, encourage growth, and inspire students to believe in themselves regardless of their background or learning challenges.*

- In your own words, why is teaching important?

*Teaching is important because it helps students learn how to solve problems and understand the world around them by developing skills they will use on a daily basis to succeed. Not only does teaching have to do with academics, it's also about showing responsibilities and respect, which helps them grow as people. Every teacher sees potential in every student; that's why we do what we do, which is to build confidence in students so they can see their potential.*

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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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.