



Stiles Point Elementary School
Shannon McAlister, Principal
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Media Release

PE Teacher from Stiles Point Selected for PSTA Seminar

Charleston, SC (November 10, 2025) – Stiles Point Elementary School's Kate Atkins was chosen as one of only eight educators from across South Carolina to participate in the Fall 2025 Strategies for Teacher Advancement and Renewal Seminar (STAR). The seminar was held on Seabrook Island from October 20 to 24, 2025.

Atkins is the physical education teacher at Stiles Point and was selected for STAR through a statewide, rigorous application process.

STAR is a biannual reward and recognition program for outstanding South Carolina veteran teachers, sponsored by the Foundation for Professional Development and the Palmetto State Teachers Association. Participants spend the week participating in a book study, taking a tour of historic Charleston, and attending an outdoor session led by a Barrier Island Naturalist. Teachers have time to reconnect and reflect while collaborating with other educators.

More than 600 educators have participated in STAR Seminars since 1994. The program was begun by the Palmetto State Teachers Association to enhance the teachers' commitment to the education profession and to provide them with opportunities for personal and professional growth. The five-day retreat is funded by private contributions through the Foundation for Professional Development.

For more information about STAR, please contact Toni Chewning, Director of Association Activities, at tchewning@palmettoteachers.org. For additional information about Kate Atkins, reach out to Principal Shannon McAlister at Shannon_McAlister@charlestoncountyschools.gov.

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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 51,000 students in 90 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.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools
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 Elementary Learning Community