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BCSD BEACON

BCSD Choice Application Now Open

The Beaufort County School District (BCSD) Choice Application Window is now open for the 2026–27 school year! Families can apply online from November 10, 2025, through January 15, 2026, to explore innovative learning options designed to fit every student's talents and interests.

BCSD Choice frees students from a one-size-fits-all learning model, offering customized programs that build confidence, expand skills, and set students on a path for lifelong success.

"Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a parent can make," said BCSD Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez. "We believe that BCSD offers the best choice!"





How It Works:

BCSD Choice allows Beaufort County students to apply for a Choice program at a school outside their attendance zone.

If your child already attends a school that offers the program you're interested in, you don't need to submit an application—but be sure to discuss your interest with the school counselor.

What's Offered:

From arts integration and dual-language immersion to medical, technology, and STEM-focused pathways, BCSD offers programs that inspire curiosity and prepare students for future careers.

Highlights include:

- Arts-Integrated Schools blending creativity and academics
- Medical & Technology Pathways offering hands-on, real-world learning
- Dual-Language Immersion programs fostering bilingual fluency
- STEM Focus across all district schools

Apply Now





Take a Tour of Your Public School

There's no better way to learn what makes the Beaufort County School District the best choice for your family than by visiting our schools in person.

We invite parents and guardians to take a tour, meet our dedicated educators, and see firsthand the engaging classrooms, innovative programs, and supportive learning environments that set BCSD apart.

Whether your child is interested in the arts, STEM, world languages, leadership, or career and technical pathways, you'll find a program designed to help them thrive.

SCAN ME



District Principal and AP of the Year

The Beaufort County School District has named its 2025 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year.

Bradley Tarrance, Principal of Robert Smalls Leadership Academy, was selected as the 2025–26 District Principal of the Year, while Geneva Young of Lady's Island Middle School earned the title of District Assistant Principal of the Year.

"We are extremely proud to celebrate our Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year," said Superintendent Frank Rodriguez. "Their outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to our students, staff, and community inspire excellence throughout our schools."

Tarrance called the honor a shared achievement. "This is an incredible honor not just for me, but for the entire Robert Smalls Leadership Academy community," he said. "Being a principal is about growing a community grounded in excellence, and expectations."

Young also emphasized teamwork and service. "Even though I'm being named Assistant Principal of the Year, it truly belongs to the staff, students, and community I serve," she said. "It's our award."

Winners were selected through peer nominations and applications for their exceptional leadership, hard work, and positive impact. Tarrance will now represent the district in state-level competition.



District Teacher of the Year

Allison Gallagher, an eighth-grade science teacher at H.E. McCracken Middle School, has been named the Beaufort County School District's 2025–26 District Teacher of the Year. The 16-year teaching veteran was recognized during a celebration honoring school-level Teachers of the Year.

"Teaching is who I am, and I am so thankful for this honor," Gallagher said. "I'm excited to continue sharing my love of teaching and representing our amazing students, families, and teachers."

Principal Dr. Roger Ward praised Gallagher as "the epitome of what any teacher should be," citing her strong relationships with students and her dedication to helping them reach their full potential.

Other finalists included Elizabeth Herring of Bluffton High, Audrey Kaney of Red Cedar Elementary, Alison Lopes of Hilton Head Island Elementary ECC, and Amy Turner of Coosa Elementary.

Gallagher has led innovative programs such as "River of Words," combining science, writing, and art, and expanded the school's Science Fair, mentoring more than 200 students each year. She holds a master's degree in Middle Grades Education and a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia.

Gallagher will now represent Beaufort County in the South Carolina State Teacher of the Year program, with state finalists announced in February.

SCAN ME! »



District Support Staff of the Year

Whale Branch Early College High School's Behavior Management Specialist, Kelvin Simmons, has been named the Beaufort County School District's 2025–26 Support Staff of the Year. The honor was announced during the district's annual Support Staff Celebration Breakfast.

Simmons earned the districtwide recognition through a competitive application process highlighting his impact on school culture, student achievement, and his ability to inspire and support others.

Assistant Principal Marcus Peacock described Simmons as a cornerstone of the school's positive environment. "Mr. Simmons is awesome! He greets the kids every morning—I think he knows every student by name," Peacock said. "If a student is having a tough day, he takes the time to talk with them. He brings warmth, energy, and a genuine care for everyone in the building."

Simmons said he was honored by the recognition. "Every day, we give 110% to make sure our students are safe and supported," he said. "I try to speak to every student, share a positive message, and help set them up for success in school and in life."

All school-level Support Staff of the Year honorees were also celebrated at the event, held at the Port Royal Sound Foundation's Weezie Educational Pavilion.

SCAN ME! »

Beaufort County School District Athletics

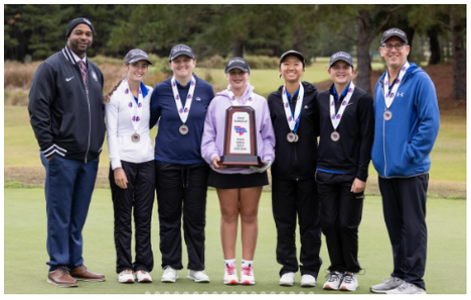


Hilton Head Island High Girls Golf Wins 4A State Championship

The Hilton Head Island High School girls golf team captured the SCHSL Class 4A State Championship earning the program's third state title.

The Seahawks posted a two-day total of 616 (+14), defeating rival and defending champion May River by 30 strokes. Sophomore Harper Hedden also won the individual state championship, shooting under par (-1)—the first HHI player to earn the honor.

The team's victory highlights their talent, consistency, and teamwork, cementing their place among South Carolina's top girls golf programs.



May River High School Girls Golf Team Finishes as 2025 State Runner-Up

The May River High School girls golf team earned State Runner-Up honors at the 2025 South Carolina AAAA Girls Golf Championship, capping off a remarkable season. The team battled tough conditions and set their lowest team score of the season in both rounds of the state tournament.

The team's achievement highlights not only their talent but also their dedication, teamwork, and perseverance—qualities that promise continued success for the program in the years to come.

District Championships



Bluffton Middle School Mustangs win BCSD 2025 Region Football Championship!



The Hilton Head Island Middle School Stingrays Volleyball Team are District Champions!

May River Elementary Groundbreaking

Beaufort County School District (BCSD) celebrated the groundbreaking of its newest school, May River Elementary, on Monday, October 20, marking a major step forward in addressing growth and school capacity needs in Bluffton.

District leaders, Board of Education members, local officials, administrators, and community partners joined Superintendent Dr. Frank Rodriguez at the future school site at 607 New Riverside Road, adjacent to May River High School, for the ceremonial turning of the soil.

"The May River Elementary School groundbreaking marks an exciting milestone for our district," said Dr. Rodriguez. "We are grateful for the voters' support of the 2023 bond referendum that made this possible. This new school represents our shared commitment to providing high-quality learning environments for every student."

The 113,000-square-foot facility will accommodate up to 800 students and is scheduled to open for the 2027–2028 school year. The new school—whose mascot will be the Manatee—will help relieve overcrowding in Bluffton's elementary schools.








BCSD Staff Spotlight

Director of Readiness Named EDmarket 2025 NexGen Rising Star



The Education Market Association (EDmarket) has announced its 2025 class of NexGen Rising Stars, recognizing Ashley Gould, Director of Readiness for the Beaufort County School District, among its honorees.

The NexGen Rising Star award celebrates emerging leaders in education who demonstrate exceptional dedication, innovation, and a measurable impact on student success.

Gould was selected for her leadership in transforming early childhood education environments and expanding access to quality learning experiences for all students.

She has led initiatives to embed research-based environmental design into instructional strategies, creating classrooms that are developmentally appropriate, inclusive, and supportive of the whole child.

Among her career highlights, Gould has expanded early childhood programs, launched a mobile preschool bus, and redesigned classroom environments to better support cognitive, social, and emotional development. She is also a strong advocate for equitable early intervention and access to high-quality early childhood education.

BCSD Principal Honored with Prestigious State Leadership Award



Battery Creek High School Principal Dee Dee Thompson has received the 2025 Inez Tenenbaum Leadership Award, one of South Carolina's highest honors in educational leadership.

Presented annually to one principal statewide, the award recognizes exceptional leadership following completion of the School Leadership Executive Institute (SLEI)—a seven-month professional program focused on instructional leadership, change management, and motivational strategies.

SLEI, operated by the South Carolina Department of Education in partnership with Truist Bank, provides executive-level leadership training designed to strengthen school leaders' capacity to positively impact their schools and communities.

With 28 years in education, Thompson has served as a science teacher, assistant principal, and principal, crediting the Beaufort County School District for supporting his growth.
"It's a proud moment for me." Thompson said. "It's because of this district and the opportunities they've given me, and because of the mentors who have guided me, that I've been able to grow as a leader. I just want to pay it forward!"
The award is named in honor of Inez Tenenbaum, who served as South Carolina's State Superintendent of Education from 1998 to 2006.

BCSD Principal Recognized as Marquis Who's Who



Congratulations to St. Helena Elementary School Principal Constance Goodwine-Lewis for being recognized in the 2025 Marquis Who's Who publications. Marquis presents unmatched coverage of the lives of today's leaders and achievers from the United States and around the world, highlighting individuals who have made notable contributions in politics, business, science, education, and more.

BCSD Students Named National Merit Semifinalists for 2026

Five outstanding Beaufort County School District (BCSD) students have been named semifinalists in the prestigious 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program, advancing to the next stage of competition for college scholarships.

The district's semifinalists include Halle Tran of Beaufort High School; Jamie Ni and Katherine Riddle of Bluffton High School; and Irina Anikina and Coleman Jacobi of May River High School. These students entered the 2026 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2024 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Their exceptional scores placed them among the top one percent of high school seniors nationwide, qualifying them as part of an elite group of approximately 16,000 semifinalists across the United States. As semifinalists, they will compete for one of 6,930 National Merit Scholarships, collectively worth nearly $26 million.

"These students have achieved something truly remarkable," said Superintendent Frank Rodriguez. "Their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence have placed them among the top scholars in the nation. We are incredibly proud of them and look forward to seeing all they accomplish as they advance in this prestigious competition."

To become finalists, students must submit detailed applications showcasing their academics, leadership, and service, along with qualifying test scores, an essay, and a school endorsement. National Merit Scholarship winners will be announced between April and July 2026, joining nearly 389,000 distinguished Merit Scholars since the program began.

Let's Go Public!