



**Charleston County School District**  
**Office of Communications**  
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## Media Release

### **Charleston County School District Compensation Increases Generate \$350 Million Annual Boost to Local Economy**

**Charleston, SC (December 2, 2025)** — New economic analysis from the Charleston Regional Development Alliance (CRDA) shows that Charleston County School District's (CCSD) recent compensation increases for teachers and staff are delivering a powerful return not only for educators, but for the entire Charleston Metro economy.

According to CRDA's assessment, the \$124.8 million in additional annual payroll provided to CCSD employees beginning in FY 2025 is circulating throughout the Charleston Metro economy and creating a powerful multiplier effect. As employees spend their increased income in the community, those dollars continue to move from one business or household to another, generating additional economic activity before leaving the region. CRDA estimates that this increased spending adds \$350 million each year to the region's gross regional product (the portion of GDP generated locally).

As CCSD employees spend their increased income on housing, food, goods, services, and daily essentials, the impact reaches a wide range of industry sectors. CRDA's analysis reveals annual gains of \$34 million in real estate, \$24 million in telecommunications, \$21 million in healthcare, \$12 million in manufacturing, \$11 million in banking and financial services, \$9 million in retail, and \$6.5 million in restaurants. These figures only reflect the impact of the increases to classified and certified compensation, which is above and beyond CCSD's existing base payroll, demonstrating the substantial economic benefit generated simply by raising employee wages to more competitive and equitable levels.

"Investing in the people who serve our children every day is one of the most important commitments we can make," Superintendent Anita Huggins said. "These results show that when we support our teachers and staff, the entire Charleston community benefits. Strong schools and a strong local economy go hand in hand. As we plan for the upcoming budget year, continuing to increase teacher salaries remains one of our highest priorities."

"This analysis confirms what we believed from the start: strategic, sustainable compensation improvements not only strengthen our ability to recruit and retain top-tier educators, they also deliver a significant economic return for the region," added Chief Financial Officer Daniel Prentice. "This is an example of responsible stewardship creating a broad, measurable impact."

As a result of this new compensation strategy, CCSD is the highest-paying public K-12 system in the Southeast and has an enhanced focus on teacher quality and attendance, while also maintaining zero vacancies (at the start of the school year) for two consecutive years.

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*Charleston County*  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools  
 Andy Pruitt, Director of Communications

### 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.

