



Charleston County  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Show Up to  
Glow Up!

**#BeHere  
BeGreat**



# Parent Back- To- School Guide for Success 2025-2026

# 2025-26 ACADEMIC CALENDAR



August 4	Monday	Teacher Workday
August 5	Tuesday	School-based Professional Development
August 6	Wednesday	Elementary District PD/Middle and High - School PD
August 7	Thursday	Middle and High District PD/Elementary - School PD
August 8	Friday	Teacher Workday
August 11	Monday	Teacher Workday
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>First Day of School for Students</b>
<b>August 13</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>First Day of School for Early Head Start</b>
<b>August 18-20</b>	<b>Monday – Wednesday</b>	<b>Staggered Entry for Head Start &amp; Child Development</b>
<b>August 21</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>First Day of School for Head Start &amp; Child Development</b>
August 29	Friday	Early Release for Teacher Planning
<b>September 1</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Holiday – Labor Day (Schools Closed)</b>
September 15	Monday	Progress Reports Distributed This Week
October 10	Friday	End of First Quarter
October 10	Friday	Half Day for Teacher Planning
October 13	Monday	First Day of Second Quarter
October 20	Monday	Report Cards Distributed This Week
October 31	Friday	Early Release for Teacher Planning
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Family Data Conferences/Teacher Workday (No School for Students)</b>
<b>November 4</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Election Day (Schools Closed)</b>
November 10	Monday	Progress Reports Distributed This Week
<b>November 24-25</b>	<b>Monday – Tuesday</b>	<b>Fall Break (Schools Closed)</b> <i>No school unless used as weather make-up day</i>
<b>November 26-28</b>	<b>Wednesday – Friday</b>	<b>Fall Break (School Closed)</b>
December 19	Friday	End of Second Quarter/First Semester
December 19	Friday	Half Day for Teacher Planning
<b>December 22-31</b>	<b>Monday – Wednesday</b>	<b>Winter Break (Schools Closed)</b>
<b>January 1-2</b>	<b>Thursday – Friday</b>	<b>Winter Break (Schools Closed)</b>
<b>January 5</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Teacher Workday (No School for Students)</b>
<b>January 6</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>School Resumes for Students</b>
January 6	Tuesday	First Day of Third Quarter/Second Semester
January 6	Tuesday	Report Cards Distributed This Week
<b>January 19</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Holiday – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (Schools Closed)</b>
February 13	Friday	Early Release for Teacher Planning
<b>February 16</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Presidents’ Day (Schools Closed)</b>
February 17	Tuesday	Progress Reports Distributed This Week
March 13	Friday	End of Third Quarter
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Teacher Workday (No School for Students)</b>
March 17	Tuesday	First Day of Fourth Quarter
March 23	Monday	Report Cards Distributed This Week
April 6-10	Monday – Friday	<b>Spring Break (Schools Closed)</b>
May 1	Friday	Early Release for Teacher Planning
May 4	Monday	Progress Reports Distributed This Week
May 25	Monday	<b>Holiday – Memorial Day (Schools Closed)</b>
May 28	Thursday	Half Day and Last Day for Students (including Early Head Start, Head Start, and Child Development)
May 29	Friday	Teacher Workday <i>Weather Make-up Day (No school unless used as weather make-up day)</i>
June 1	Monday	Report Cards Distributed This Week

Check out the academic calendar. Don't forget to plan your appointments, vacations, and other activities accordingly!

# GREETINGS

Charleston County School District is pleased to present the 2025–2026 Back to School Resource Guide for Families. This guide was developed to provide you with essential information to support your student's success as we begin a new school year. Here you will find information on transportation, student registration, medical updates, and so much more. Our goal is to provide families with the knowledge and support they need to confidently guide their students toward academic success.

We encourage you to explore the resources in this guide and stay engaged now and throughout the school year. Together, we can ensure every student shows up, thrives, and is prepared for the future.

Thank you for being a vital part of our school community—we're looking forward to a great year ahead!



With appreciation,

Charleston County School District

The theme for the 2025-2026 school year is #BeHereBeGreat. This year, we are focusing on three key priorities:

- Improving student attendance
- Supporting student well-being
- Promoting college and career readiness

Attendance Matters  
Quick Clip!



# TARDY

Tardies can lead to missed instruction, as well as less opportunities to engage with peers.



## Strategies to reduce tardies:

- Maintain a healthy sleep schedule
- Pack the night before
- Use the bus app
- Know your school start time

# REGISTRATION

Please Register

✓ Returning Students

✓ New Students

✓ Head Start/ Early Head Start

✓ Qualified Students with Accepted Seats- K3 and K4

*Register your student for the  
2025-2026 school year!*



[www.ccsdschools.com/registration](http://www.ccsdschools.com/registration)



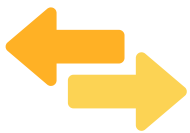
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**If you need help getting started, check out our help videos at the QR code above.**



**Inquiries regarding PowerSchool and the Parent portal should visit [www.ccsdschools.com/parentportalvideos](http://www.ccsdschools.com/parentportalvideos).**



**Are you transferring to a different school district? Don't forget to withdraw your student from CCSD!**



**For additional questions surrounding transfers please visit the following.**

**Neighborhood Transfers:**

[www.ccsdschools.com/studenttransfer](http://www.ccsdschools.com/studenttransfer)

**School Choice:** [www.ccsdschools.com/schoolchoice](http://www.ccsdschools.com/schoolchoice)

For those unable to register online, please contact your child's school to arrange a date and time to register in-person.

# ATTENDANCE = ACHIEVEMENT

Let's Close the Gap!

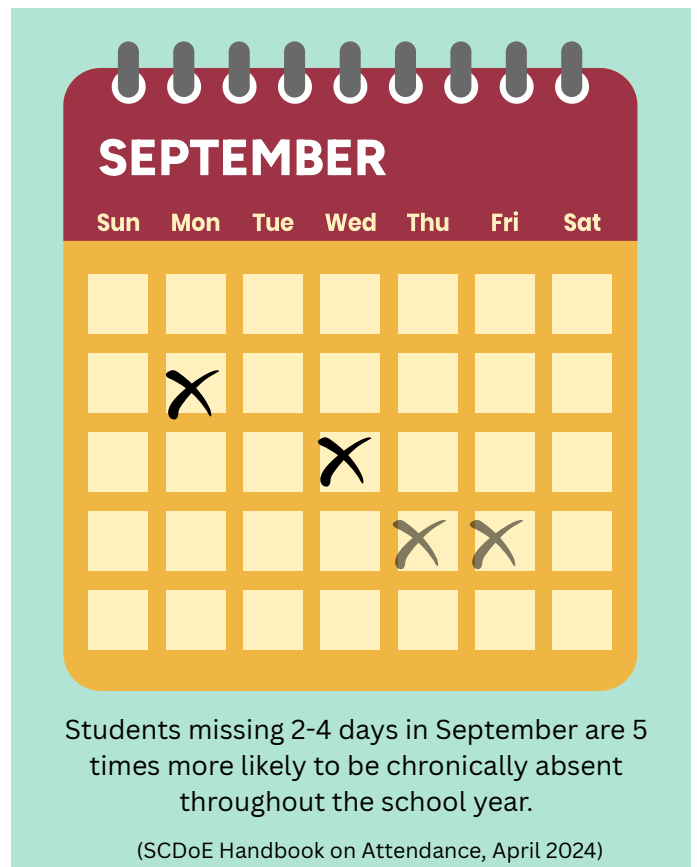
Consistent attendance is foundational to student achievement, social development, and lifelong success. Chronic absenteeism, defined as missing 10% or more of the school year (approximately 18 days), is both a national and local concern. Research shows that chronic absenteeism is often the result of a combination of factors, including:

- **Health Concerns:** Chronic illnesses can keep students at home; we offer nursing support and homebound services to help them stay on-track.
- **Transportation Challenges:** Lack of reliable transportation affects attendance; we assist with bus routes and provide resources for alternative options.
- **Economic Hardship:** Financial struggles may limit access to supplies or clothing; we connect families with resources for essential needs.
- **Mental Health Needs:** Emotional challenges can impact learning; our counselors and partners provide mental health support, programs and services.
- **Disconnection from School:** Students may feel unmotivated or isolated; we offer mentoring and activities to build connection and engagement.

Understanding and addressing these challenges is critical to ensuring students are present and engaged.

Our district goal is to increase the student attendance rate from 93.0% to 93.8% and decrease the percent of students who are chronically absent from 20.2% to 14.2%, by June 2027. We are committed to reducing chronic absenteeism and are asking for the partnership of families, educators, and community members to help us achieve this important goal.

Together, we can ensure that every student shows up, shines bright, and reaches their full potential. We look forward to partnering with you.



# CCSD RESOURCE CARD

STUDENTS ARE  
THE HEART  
OF OUR WORK!

Charleston **excellence is our standard**  
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Department of Exceptional Children

Phone: 843-937-6500

Email: [Exceptionalchildren@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:Exceptionalchildren@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Services and programs for students with disabilities ages 3-21 served under IDEA and Section 504.

## Department of School Support

Phone: 843-745-7150

Email: [SPACESupport@Charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:SPACESupport@Charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Attendance, community engagement, parent concerns, student mentorships, discipline, and school programs.

## Department of Student Support

Phone: 843-746-2296

Email: [studentsupports@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:studentsupports@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Mental health, prevention and interventions, substance abuse, social workers, and medical homebound.

## Department of Early Learning

Phone: 843-937-7914

Email: [ccsdprek@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:ccsdprek@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Educational programming for children under 5 (Child Development/Pre-K, Head Start, Early Head Start.)

Click on department names to navigate to their website.

## Nutrition Services

Phone: 843-566-8180

Email: [nutrition\\_services@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:nutrition_services@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Provide meals, snacks, a la carte, etc. to students following USDA Dietary Guidelines.

## McKinney-Vento

Phone: 843-937-7920

Email: [mckinney-vento@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:mckinney-vento@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Support displaced families and remove enrollment barriers (lack of school uniforms, supplies, transport, etc.).

## Department of Multilingual Services

Phone: 843-529-2820

Email: [mso@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:mso@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Instructional services for multilingual students and wrap around services for multilingual families.

## Federal Programs

Phone: 843-937-6510

Email: [solange\\_brewer@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:solange_brewer@charleston.k12.sc.us)  
Services: Services to support improving the academic achievement of the disadvantaged - Title I

**Additional Resources**



[www.tuw.org](http://www.tuw.org)

[www.scpaents.org](http://www.scpaents.org)

**Attendance Quick Clip**



billy

# STUDENT SUPPORT RESOURCES

## Resources offered:

- Homebound
- Mental Health & Wellness Services  
*(Offered to CCSD students and staff)*
- Professional Development for CCSD Staff
- Family Education and Resource Coordination
- Restorative Practices & School Climate Support
- School Counseling Services
- School Psychological Services
- Social Work Services
- Substance use supports ADAPT

For more information or assistance reach out to your child's school.



Department of Student Support Services  
studentsupports@charleston.k12.sc.us

80%

Of CCSD Students are NOT considered chronically absent.

## NURSING SERVICES

CCSD Nurses are available to assist families in creating health plans for students with chronic illness (diabetes, asthma, etc.) to prevent an interruption in receiving academic instruction/services.

### Medications at school

Students having access to necessary medications at school is crucial for managing chronic conditions and acute illnesses. This allows them to stay in class and maintain consistent attendance.

To arrange for your students to receive their medication at school, speak to your school's nurse.

### Immunizations

Immunizations help ensure attendance! Vaccinated children are less likely to fall ill and miss school days, ensuring they don't miss out on valuable learning opportunities and maintaining their academic progress.



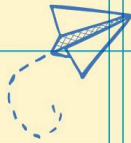
[bit.ly/ccsdimmunizations](https://bit.ly/ccsdimmunizations)



Nursing Services  
NursingServices@Charleston.k12.sc.us

# A NOTE ABOUT NOTES

To Whom It May Concern,



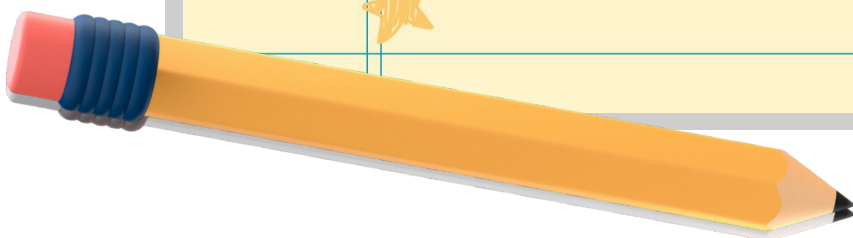
A note about notes! If your student is absent, please send a parent note within 3 school days. Notes should include the child's full name, date, reason, parent/ guardian's name, and signature.

Parents are only allowed 10 days of parent notes per academic year. Every day counts!

Sincerely,

Attendance Matters

*#Show Up to  
Glow Up!*



# OUTSTANDING ATTENDANCE

## WE WANT TO CELEBRATE YOU!

- Attend school daily
- Be on time
- Miss no more than *one* day per month

### CCSD Recognizes Outstanding Attendance

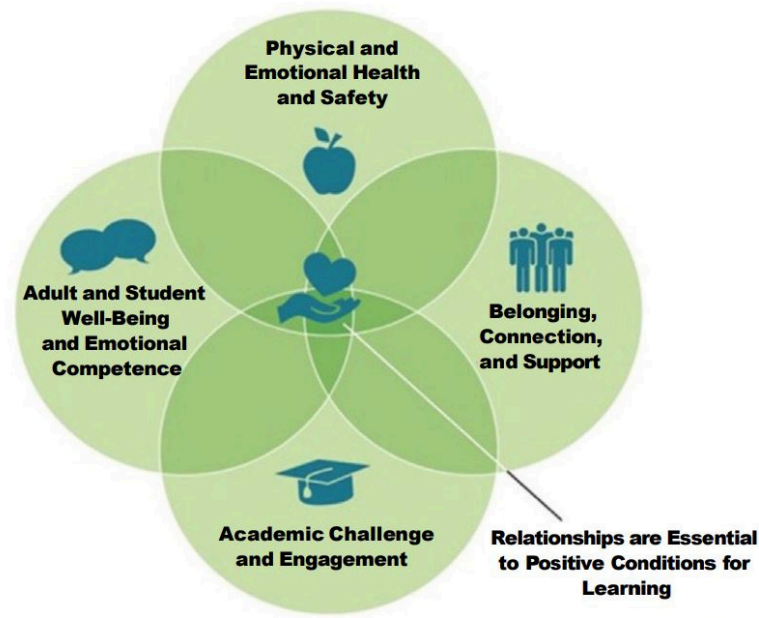
Throughout the year, we will recognize schools and students with Outstanding Attendance.

Previous celebrations included: donuts parties, tickets to Stingrays games, invitation to end of year celebration, trophies, and more! This year, we want to recognize *YOU!*



### School Readiness & Life Skills

- Think Ahead - give yourself time to plan and prepare for upcoming tasks
- Reduce Stress by Organizing - Use a daily calendar or agenda to set goals and keep up with deadlines
- Get healthy / Stay healthy - Staying active and eating well balanced meals helps promote strong brain function
- Take time to rest and recharge - Find time to recharge your body by doing things that make you and those around you smile



©Attendance Works

# TRANSPORTATION



## Scan for

- Bell schedules
- Bus Stop Information
- Bus Tracking Apps
- Feedback Form

## Pre-K and Kindergarten Students:

Please ensure your child receives a "Red Tag" for their book bag from their Homeroom Teacher. This will ensure that your child is not let off the bus without a parent, guardian, or approved sibling present. Please refer to the CCSD Transportation website for additional "Red Tag" program details.

## Track your student's bus route and receive notifications.



### First View App Tracking - First Student Bus routes

\*App bus registration will be available starting July 21, 2025

**NOTE: The "First View" tracking app has been updated. Please delete and install "First View 1.0"**



### Remind App- Coastal bus line routes.



**Arrive 10 minutes prior and remain 10 minutes after published stop time**

## Bus stop request!

### Traditional Stops

Submit a request if you do not have a stop within .3 of a mile from your residence. (Your address must be updated in PowerSchool)

### Magnet Stops

Submit a request if you do not have a stop within 5 miles of your residence.

Families with students who require Special Needs Transportation will receive transportation details directly.

# SHOW UP

*Bright*

**Q: Why is attendance so important for students?**

**A: Regular attendance is vital to a student's success in school! Students who are frequently absent miss out on developing social skills, direct instruction from instructors, and the benefits of their school community. Any amount of time a student is absent results in a missed learning opportunity.**

**Q: What does chronic absenteeism mean.**

**A: Chronic absenteeism is when any student in Kindergarten through 12th grade who misses half or more of instructional hours for any reason for 10% or more of the enrollment period. Excused and unexcused absences, as well as suspensions, all contribute to chronic absenteeism. In this case, even excused absences impact chronic absenteeism.**

**Q: What kind of written explanations does the school need me to provide?**

**A: Parent/Guardians can submit notes for up to 10 days during the school year. This year, parents/guardians are encouraged to submit notes using the PowerSchool website. Handwritten notes are still accepted. Written notes must include the student's name, parent/guardian's full name, telephone number, date of the absence(s) and reason for the absence, as well as a signature.**

**Q: I've heard the word "truancy." What does that mean though?**

**A: Any child 6-17 years-old missing three, consecutive full-day unexcused absences or five or more full-day unexcused absences in a school year. \*For children 6-year-old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Q: What do I do if my student misses school?**

**A: Parents/Guardians are required to provide written explanations within three school days of returning to school.**

**Q: What's considered an excused absence and an unexcused absence?**

**A: Examples of excused absences include illness, the passing of an immediate family member, and field trips approved by the principal. Unexcused absences include family vacations, a student missing school without the parent/guardian's knowledge, and a student missing school with the parent/guardian's knowledge.**

**For more information, please refer to Policy JH**

