



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
 75 Calhoun St.,
 Charleston, SC 29401
 (843) 937-6303

Media Release

CCSD Students Dive into Innovation at Annual Charleston SeaPerch Challenge

North Charleston, SC (March 3, 2026) — Close to 20 schools from the Charleston area, many from Charleston County School District (CCSD), recently showcased their engineering and problem-solving skills at the 16th Annual Charleston SeaPerch Challenge, a hands-on STEM robotics competition focused on underwater innovation.

The event was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at the North Charleston Sports Complex.

SeaPerch is an international STEM education program centered on building and competing with Remotely Operated Underwater Vehicles (ROVs). Students in grades 5 through high school designed, constructed, and operated underwater robots using low-cost, accessible materials. Through the program, participants gained practical experience in engineering, science, mathematics, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Teams competed in pool-based mission and obstacle courses as well as technical design challenges. Beyond the competition, SeaPerch is designed to spark student interest in engineering and marine science careers while building real-world STEM skills through engaging, project-based learning. The program also connects students globally through collaborative competition opportunities.

This year's regional challenge was hosted by the CCSD K–12 STEAM Initiative and the CCSD Curriculum & Instruction (Science) Office.

The following teams earned spots at the International SeaPerch Challenge, scheduled for the weekend of May 30, 2026, at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD:

- Hunley Park SeaBees - First Place Overall Middle School (MS) Stock Class
- Nation Ford Mechanical Manatees - First Place Overall High School (HS) Stock Class:
- Academic Magnet Bling Rays - First Place Overall Open Class

The following teams won the different competitions:

Mission Course (Open Class)

- Academic Magnet Bling Rays

Technical Design (Open Class)

- Academic Magnet Bling Rays

Obstacle Course (Open Class)



- Academic Magnet Bling Rays

Mission Course (MS Stock Class)

- Charleston Charter School for Math and Science Team Scubas

Technical Design (MS Stock Class)

- Hunley Park SeaBees

Obstacle Course (MS Stock Class)

- St. James MS Tech Turtles

Mission Course (HS Stock Class)

- Nation Ford Mechanical Manatees

Technical Design (HS Stock Class)

- Academic Magnet The Rocks

Obstacle Course (HS Stock Class)

- Charleston Charter School for Math and Science Team Phobia

The Charleston SeaPerch Challenge is an example of the region's and district's commitment to preparing students for future careers in STEM while fostering creativity, collaboration, and innovation.

For more information, contact CCSD's Office of Communications at (843) 937-6583.

###

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.