



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD Education Foundation Announces Official Launch Alongside a \$25,000 Microgrant Pool for Educators

Inaugural Board Meeting Votes to Approve First Grant Cycle; Applications Now Open to All CCSD Educators Through April 3, 2026

Charleston, SC (March 17, 2026) - The Charleston County School District (CCSD) Education Foundation today announced its official launch following the organization's inaugural board meeting, which occurred this evening. As one of its first orders of business, the newly seated board voted unanimously to approve a \$25,000 Bright Ideas Microgrant cycle, with applications opening immediately to all educators across the district.

The Bright Ideas Microgrant program will award individual grants ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to CCSD educators at all grade levels K-12, supporting innovative, student-centered projects across STEM, the arts, literacy, and social-emotional learning. The inaugural grant pool of \$25,000 represents the Foundation's commitment to investing directly in classrooms and the educators who lead them.

The Foundation was established to serve as a center for innovation, investment, and collaboration, aligning community generosity with strategic district priorities. By connecting the broader Charleston community to the needs of its public schools, the Foundation aims to enhance classroom instruction, recognize outstanding educators, and expand opportunities for students across every school in the district.

“Charleston has always shown up for its kids, and the CCSD Education Foundation gives us a powerful new way to channel that generosity directly into classrooms, honoring the teachers who give so much every day and opening doors for students who deserve every opportunity,” said Superintendent Anita Huggins.

The Bright Ideas Microgrants are designed to fund projects that go beyond basic classroom supplies, supporting hands-on learning experiences, creative tools, and community-connected projects that teachers might not otherwise be able to implement. Eligible uses include robotics and coding kits, arts and media production resources, oral history and publishing projects, classroom science labs, and more. Applicants are encouraged to describe the specific learning gap their project addresses, how students will actively engage, and how success will be measured.



All CCSD educators, including classroom teachers, instructional coaches, and specialists, are eligible to apply. The application is available today at ccsdeducationfoundation.org, and the deadline for this first cycle is Friday, April 3, 2026. Grant recipients will be notified on a rolling basis following review by a qualified panel.

“The speed and conviction with which this board acted today, by approving a \$25,000 grant cycle at their very first meeting, clearly conveys our mission to every educator in Charleston County: we see you, we believe in you, and we are ready to invest,” explained Patrick Arnold, Executive Director, CCSD Education Foundation. “The Bright Ideas Microgrants are our opening statement, and I am so grateful to every board member, educator, and community partner who made this launch possible. We are just getting started.”

How to Apply

CCSD educators interested in applying for a Bright Ideas Microgrant should visit ccsdeducationfoundation.org to access the online application. Applicants will be asked to provide a project description, itemized budget, implementation timeline, and a brief statement of how the project will be measured. Grants range from \$500 to \$1,000. The application window closes Friday, April 3, 2026.

Grant Program	Bright Ideas Microgrant
Total Pool	\$25,000
Grant Range	\$500 – \$1,000 per award
Who Can Apply	All CCSD educators, K–12
Application Opens	March 17, 2026
Application Deadline	Friday, April 3, 2026
Apply Online	ccsdeducationfoundation.org

For more information, contact Devon Wade, the Director of Community and Investor Relations for the CCSD Education Foundation at Devon.Wade@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.

