



THE EXCELLENCE OF **RICHLAND TWO**



2025-2026
DISTRICT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

JELAYNE KING
PONTIAC ELEMENTARY

1926-2026 **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION KICKS OFF WITH OPENING OF RICHLAND TWO HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

We are celebrating 100 years of excellence in education. This historic milestone honors a century of learning, leadership, and legacy that has shaped generations of students and strengthened our community. To commemorate this achievement, we kicked off the year with the opening of the Richland Two Historic Museum inside the Little Red Schoolhouse on the campus of Killian Elementary School. Visit www.richland2.org/100years for more information about the celebration!



MISSION

In partnership with our community, we empower students to discover their potential and prepare for a successful future.

VISION

Richland Two is a dynamic school district committed to creating an environment where students feel connected, engaged and supported so that they can experience academic and personal achievement.



RICHLAND TWO BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND SUPERINTENDENT



(Front row l-r): The Honorable Dr. Monica Elkins-Scott, Secretary; The Honorable Angela Nash, Chair; and The Honorable Tamika Washington, Vice Chair
 (Second row l-r): The Honorable Shelley Williams, The Honorable Joe Trapp, The Honorable Niki Porter, The Honorable Gary Dennis



Dr. Kim D. Moore
 Superintendent

District Snapshot



General Fund Budget

\$394,807,010

Military-Connected Students

3,501 or 12.3 percent

Languages

56 Languages other than English (Top Four: English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese Mandarin)

Pupils in Poverty

18,207 or 64.2 percent

Ethnicities

63.0 % African-American
 14.2% White
 13.5% Latino/Hispanic
 6.7% Additional Races/
 Ethnicities
 2.6% Asian

Graduation Rate

86.7 percent

Staff Population

2395 Certified
 1515 Support (Classified)
 199 Professional

Proudly Serving 28,350+ students

41 Schools and Centers

- 20 Elementary Schools
- 4 Elementary Magnet Centers
- 1 Child Development Center
- 7 Middle Schools
- 5 High Schools
- 1 Virtual School Program
- 1 Adult Education Center
- 1 Student Innovation Center
- 1 Alternative School

5th Largest School District in South Carolina



Kim Hutcherson, Director of Student Services and former principal of the Center for Achievement, is the 2025 AVID Global Achievement Awards Elementary Principal of the Year. AVID Global Achievement Awards recognize exceptional leaders and teams who embody the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) mission of advancing college and career readiness for all students through high expectations, rigorous instruction, and unwavering support. She received the award at a ceremony in California.



Ashley Cobb, music teacher at Catawba Trail Elementary School made the list of Yamaha's "40 Under 40" music educators taking innovative approaches to instruction. Cobb has shown exceptional passion, creativity, and commitment to growth. Cobb was also recently named the Richland Two 2024-2025 Rookie Teacher of the Year.

NEW COHORT OF NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

Richland Two is celebrating its newest cohort of 10 National Board Certified Teachers, recognizing their dedication to excellence in teaching and learning and their lasting impact on student success. National Board Certification, awarded by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, is widely regarded as one of the highest professional distinctions an educator can earn. While certification is a rewarding professional growth experience, it also provides a significant and tangible benefit for educators.

Certified teachers employed by Richland Two receive a \$5,000 annual supplement from the district for the life of their certificate. Additionally, teachers receive state incentives ranging up to \$10,000 annually. With these newly certified educators, the district now employs 210 teachers who have earned National Board Certification strengthening the district's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning.



Student & School Highlights

Ten seniors are finalists in the **71st annual National Merit Scholarship Program**. Seniors nationwide are competing for approximately 6,930 scholarships valued at nearly \$26 million. Winners will be announced beginning in April and concluding in July.

Class of 2025 seniors earned more than \$183,896,802 in college scholarships and had four National Merit Scholarship winners and five National Merit Scholarship Corporation winners.

The **Richland Northeast High NJROTC program** earned the Distinguished Unit with Academic Honors designation by the Department of Defense and the Commander of Naval Service Training Command (NSTC). The Distinguished Unit with Honors designation

is the most significant award bestowed by the NSTC. **JROTC programs** at each Richland Two high school have a 100 percent graduation rate.

Caroline Brandes, Richland Northeast HS, is one of 33 students selected from across the country to join PBS Student Reporting Labs' 2025-26 Student Advisory Team. Brandes is a student in the Convergence Media magnet.

Spring Valley HS Senior Jason Peay is one of four artists selected to be showcased in the 2026 Art in the Airport exhibits. His *Girl with the Grillz* will be on display at Columbia Metropolitan Airport through September.

Richland Northeast HS yearbook, The Archive, won the Class III Palmetto Award from the S.C.Scholastic Press Association.

Blythewood Middle School and **Muller Road Middle School** have been re-designated as 2026 National Schools to Watch. This recognition from the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform honors sustained excellence in middle-level education

Dent Middle School won the district's 2026 Quiz Whiz Middle School Academic Tournament for the third year in a row.

Joseph Keels Elementary School was named a 2025-26 National Beta School of Merit.

Conder Elementary Arts Integrated Magnet School has successfully renewed its ABC (Arts in Basic Curriculum) School Certification.





2026 WESTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
This is the first state basketball championship in school history!



2026 BLYTHEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
This is the second year in a row Blythewood has won the state championship.



2026 RIDGE VIEW HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS
This is the third year in a row Ridge View has won the state championship and the seventh time since 2018.

District Highlights



Alvera Butler, principal of Keels Elementary School was named a finalist for South Carolina Elementary School Principal of the Year, placing her in the top three elementary principals in the state.

Twenty-eight magnet programs across 18 schools earned **2026 National Merit Awards from Magnet Schools of America**. This year's haul includes several programs earning Top Magnet Schools of Excellence, placing them among the most elite educational offerings in the country.

First Citizens Foundation donated \$40,000 to **R2 A.I.M.S.** (All In Mentoring Support).



Center for Inquiry Principal Dr. Emily Whitecotton was recognized as the Palmetto State Literacy Association's Administrator of the Year.



Dr. Garrett Knight, Athletic Director at Westwood High School is the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association's 5A Athletic Director of the Year.

2025-2026

Teachers of the Year

- * **Abigail (Abby) Taylor**, Bethel-Hanberry Elementary
- ***Meredith Blocker**, Blythewood High
- Nicole Schuldes**, Blythewood Middle
- Sheri Barfield**, Bookman Road Elementary
- Chantrese Goodwine**, Bridge Creek Elementary
- Nick Musciano**, Catawba Trail Elementary
- Ryan Armor**, Dent Middle
- Jonnetta Jones**, E.L. Wright Middle
- Alexis Jansen**, Forest Lake Elementary
- Maria Herron**, Jackson Creek Elementary
- Clarissa Scott**, Joseph Keels Elementary
- ***Joy Walker**, Kelly Mill Middle
- Ashley Gilmore**, Killian Elementary
- Andrea Scurry**, Lake Carolina - Lower
- ***Elisabeth Luck**, Lake Carolina - Upper
- Irma Richardson**, Langford Elementary
- Jessica Winfrey**, Longleaf Middle
- Latanya Lemon**, Lonnie B. Nelson Elementary
- Bethany Gladden**, L.W. Conder Elementary
- Lauran Reese**, Muller Road Middle
- Tabitha Glover**, North Springs Elementary
- Charaine Virgo**, Polo Road Elementary
- ****Jelayne King**, Pontiac Elementary
- Michael Murray**, Rice Creek Elementary
- Narkisha Schofield**, Richland Northeast High
- Carmela St. Thomas Rogers**, Ridge View High
- Nira Ransome**, Round Top Elementary
- Lena Timmerman**, Sandlapper Elementary
- Cathy Stinson**, Spring Valley High
- Tryphena Cuffy**, Summit Parkway Middle
- Angela Hill**, Westwood High
- Ebony Douglas**, Windsor Elementary

* Honor Roll Teachers/**District Teacher of the Year