

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 12, 2026

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Orangeburg County School District Celebrates National School Social Work Week

Orangeburg, SC – Orangeburg County School District proudly recognized National School Social Work Week, which was celebrated annually from March 1–7. The week honored the dedication, compassion, and expertise of school social workers and social services staff who played a vital role in supporting students’ academic success, mental health, and overall well-being.

The theme for the year, “Unite to Ignite: Celebrating Our Impact,” highlighted the collaborative work of school social workers, educators, families, and community partners in creating supportive environments where students could succeed both academically and personally. School social workers and social services staff served as a critical link between home, school, and community. They provided direct services to students facing social, emotional, behavioral, and environmental challenges that might have interfered with learning. Through counseling, crisis intervention, advocacy, family engagement, and collaboration with community partners, these professionals worked to remove barriers so that every student could thrive.

Orangeburg County School District Social Work Coordinator Lakesha Hart expressed, “Social work means more to me than simply performing a job each day. It represents a commitment to service,

advocacy, and hope for students, families, and the community. As a social worker, I believe our work is rooted in compassion, understanding, and the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to succeed regardless of the challenges they may face.”

National School Social Work Week also provided an opportunity to recognize the meaningful difference school social workers and social services staff make each day. Their work uplifts students, empowers families, strengthens schools, and helps build healthier communities. Orangeburg County School District extends its sincere gratitude to its school social workers and social services staff for their unwavering commitment to advocacy, service, and student success.

“School social workers play an essential role in ensuring that our students feel supported, safe, and empowered to succeed. Their dedication to advocacy, compassion for students and families, and commitment to addressing challenges both inside and outside the classroom make a lasting difference in the lives of the children we serve,” said Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District.

For more information about National School Social Work Week, visit the School Social Work Association of America at www.sswaa.org

For additional information, please contact Taylor R. Johnson, Communications and Multi-Media Specialist, at taylor.johnson@ocsdsc.org or 839-253-2070.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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