



**Charleston County School District**  
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## Media Release

### **CCSD Virtual Student Earns Prestigious 2026 Summit STEM Fellowship**

**Charleston, SC (March 30, 2026)** — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to recognize Dylan Gourdine, an eighth grader served through the CCSD Low Country Virtual (LCV) program (and enrolled at Laing Middle School), who has been selected as a 2026 Summit STEM Fellow.

Dylan's acceptance into the [Summit STEM Fellowship](#) (SSF) places him among an elite group of young scholars from around the world; he was selected from a global pool of more than 4,500 applicants representing over 100 countries. His accomplishment highlights both his dedication to academic excellence and CCSD's commitment to fostering innovation and opportunity for all students.

Dylan distinguished himself through his strong interest in epidemiology, public health, and infectious disease control. His passion for addressing real-world challenges aligned closely with the Fellowship's mission to empower students who aspire to make a meaningful global impact.

The SSF is a rigorous and highly selective enrichment program designed for ambitious students pursuing advanced learning opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. As a Fellow, Dylan will participate in more than 30 hours of live instruction focused on critical thinking and complex problem-solving. He will also benefit from mentorship opportunities with a global network of more than 50 industry leaders and engage in career-focused experiences such as Fireside Chats, STEM Shorts, and professional panel discussions.

Dylan's journey to this international stage began years ago, when he enrolled in CCSD's Low Country Virtual program in the fourth grade, where he has been enrolled ever since. His success reflects not only his hard work and determination, but also the support of his Virtual Learning Coach, Kathy Gourdine (Dylan's mother), and his teachers across both Low Country Virtual and CCSD.

"This achievement is a testament to Dylan's commitment to learning and his desire to make a difference in the world," said Gourdine. "We are incredibly proud of Dylan and are grateful for the support and encouragement he has received from his LCV teachers and classmates (since 4th grade), the CCSD virtual administrators, and the Laing Middle School community. Your guidance has played an important role in helping him explore his interests and grow in confidence."

The SSF accepts only about 20 percent of applicants each year, making Dylan's selection an extraordinary accomplishment. CCSD celebrates his success and looks forward to following his continued journey as a future leader in STEM.

For more information, contact the district's Office of Communications at [communications@charlestoncountyschools.gov](mailto:communications@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.