



West Ashley High School
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Media Release

West Ashley's Emily Collier Participates In PSTA's STAR Seminar

Charleston, SC (April 2, 2026) - Emily Collier, an English and AP Language and Composition teacher at West Ashley High School, was selected as one of just eight educators from across South Carolina to participate in the Spring 2026 Strategies for Teacher Advancement and Renewal (STAR) Seminar.

The seminar took place March 23–27, 2026, at Seabrook Island and recognized outstanding veteran teachers from across the state. STAR is a biannual reward and recognition program sponsored by the Foundation for Professional Development in partnership with the Palmetto State Teachers Association.

Collier earned her place in the prestigious program through a rigorous statewide application process that highlights excellence in teaching, leadership, and commitment to the profession.

Since its inception in 1994, more than 600 educators have participated in STAR Seminars. The program was established by the Palmetto State Teachers Association to strengthen educators' dedication to the teaching profession while providing opportunities for meaningful personal and professional growth.

The five-day retreat is funded through private contributions to the Foundation for Professional Development and offers participants a unique environment to reflect, collaborate, and further develop their craft.

For additional information, contact Principal Dr. Andy Brandt at (843) 573-1201.

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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.

