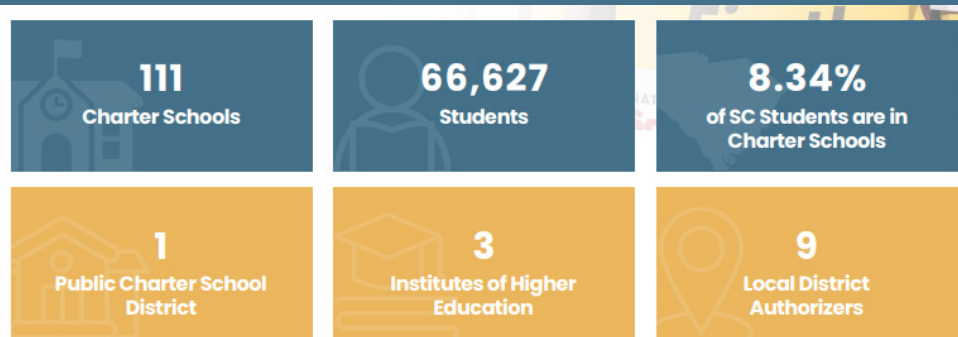




The Charter School Chronicle

The Voice for Education Choice and Family Engagement in South Carolina



CHARTER SCHOOL REPORT CARD FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

40 Schools with an Excellent Rating

Anderson Five Charter School
Riverview Charter School
Allegro Charter School of Music
Carolina Voyager Charter School
Charleston Charter for Math and Science
East Cooper Montessori Charter School (x2)
James Island Charter High School
Orange Grover Charter School (x2)
Ascent Classical - Fort Mill
Belton Academy
Berkley Preparatory Academy
Brashier Middle College Charter High School
Grey Collegiate (x2)
Langston Charter Middle School
Lowcountry Leadership Charter School
Thornwell Charter School
Coastal Montessori Charter School
Palmetto Academy of Learning and Success
Palmetto Academy of Learning Motorsports
Discovery School of Lancaster

Atlantic Collegiate Academy
East Link Academy Charter School (x2)
Legion Collegiate Academy
Oceanside Collegiate Academy
Orangeburg High School for Health Professionals
Richland One Charter Middle College
Bridges Preparatory School
East Point Academy
Fox Creek High School
Green Charter Greenville
Green Charter School Simpsonville
Green Charter School Spartanburg
Greenville Technical Charter High School
Greer Middle College Charter High School
High Point Academy
Lakes and Bridges Charter School
Palmetto Scholars Academy
Riverwalk Academy
York Preparatory Academy
Youth Leadership Academy

37 Schools with a Good Rating

62 Schools with an Average Rating

18 Schools with a Below Average Rating

19 Schools with an Unsatisfactory Rating

7 Schools with No Rating

*Schools receive a report card for each level - Elementary, Middle, & High School

Charter Schools Do More With Less!

- 22.7% of our charter schools have an Excellent rating. A slightly better percentage than the rest of the state.
- 82.2% of our brick-and-mortar charter schools are rated Average, Good, or Excellent.

P&I Grant Applications Are Open!

Applications for new charter schools opening in 2026 or 2027 are open now through May 8. For more details, visit the SCDE [grants page](#).

This Month's News

P&I Grant Info and Update

School Spotlight

The Future Works

Charter School Transportation:
Observation Phase

Military Honor Cord Ceremony

Contact Us:

We here at the SCDE are here to support you:!

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[Sign-up HERE](#)





P&I Grant Info and Update!



The Planning and Implementation (P&I) Grant is part of the federal Charter Schools Program (CSP), which is designed to increase the number of high-quality charter schools. The P&I Grant is available to schools entering their planning year or opening this fall.

This year, three schools will be selected to receive grant awards through an external peer-review process. The current P&I grant, which began in 2020, is entering a no-cost extension period. Despite this extension status, qualifying schools will still have access to up to three additional years of grant funding, representing nearly \$1 million in total funds per school over that period.

At the same time, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is in the process of applying for a new P&I grant that would begin next year. Through this new application, SCDE anticipates increasing both the number of schools awarded funding each year and the amount of funding available to each school.

**We Want More,
Excellent Charter
Schools!**

**Our Current P&I Grant
Cohort Includes
15 Schools**

3 in Planning,
8 in their first year
of Implementation,
& 4 in their final year
of implementation.

School Spotlight: Riverview Charter School

Experiential learning has been a cornerstone of Riverview Charter School since it first received its charter in 2009. Beginning in their very first trimester, students engage in field studies that extend learning beyond the classroom.

Throughout each three-year cycle, students work with local conservation groups to explore sustainability and horticulture, visit historical landmarks to learn about community history, and participate in service projects that include feeding those in need, visiting the elderly, and engaging in the arts. Each cycle culminates in a 3–5 day Capstone trip, where students apply their learning through hands-on experiences. While overnight trips for 60–75 students require significant financial resources; the school's Business Development & Engagement team, board, parents, and broader community all collaborate to make these experiences possible. For example, the 16th Annual Beaufort Twilight Run, drew more than 1,200 participants and over 250 volunteers, directly supports student participation in Capstone trips. Riverview is committed to ensuring no student is excluded from Capstone trips due to financial constraints.

While the school has years of experience integrating these trips into its curriculum, it demonstrates that similar experiential learning programs can be developed at other schools as well.

Cycle 1 – K–2nd
2nd Grade Capstone
Barrier Islands



Cycle 2 – 3rd–5th
5th Grade Capstone
Washington DC



Cycle 3 – 6th–8th
8th Grade Capstone
Costa Rica



What we want...



Every child to graduate
college, career, or military ready

BY **2030**,
AT LEAST **75%**
OF STUDENTS
AT OR ABOVE
GRADE LEVEL

How do we get there?

**We Know Charter Schools Are Doing Their Part
(and More) to Reach This Strategic Goal**

We Want to Help Tell Your Stories!

This summer, we will be sending forms to all charter school stakeholders
inviting nominations for innovative charter school initiatives, projects,
or practices that are producing meaningful results in supporting
students to be college, career, or military ready.

More updates to come!

DID YOU KNOW?

Studies indicate that students with dyslexia and other reading challenges are finding success through sign language instruction, as it allows them to bypass phonemic barriers and engage with language in a more accessible way.

Here's an article from the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity

The Palmetto Achievement Center for Excellence Academy (PACE) is finding that same success with their Sign Language program.





The Future Works: York Preparatory Academy



March 5, 2026 York Preparatory Academy hosted its 3rd Annual Futures in Focus Conference, an initiative designed to support juniors and seniors in planning for life after high school. The event exposed students to a broad range of college pathways, entry-ready careers, military opportunities, and practical life skills that promote college, career, and military readiness. Students participated in 38 breakout sessions across 21 unique topics, selecting sessions aligned with their interests and goals. Sessions included:

- *Price of Admission: Resources to Meet Your Goals*
- *How to Balance Your Personal Finances & Budget*
- *Becoming the Next Generation of First Responders*
- *Keys to Successfully Starting Your Own Business*
- *How A.I. Is Shaping & Transforming the I.T. Field*
- *How to Meet Your Goals in the Military*
- *Future Makers: Trades That Pay*



Beyond breakout sessions, students received professional headshots, engaged with local community-based nonprofit organizations, and took part in a catered "working lunch" with presenters. The experience concluded with a motivational challenge focused on cultivating a positive mindset.

The Futures in Focus Conference represents a scalable, replicable model that can be implemented in any charter high school to strengthen student awareness, engagement, and preparation for postsecondary success.

Charter School Transportation: Observation Phase

As the new year began, the SCDE Charter School Transportation Study entered its observation phase. Two schools—Willie Jeffries School of Excellence (WJSE) and Orangeburg High School for Health Professions (OHSHP)—were selected based on matching criteria to similar charter schools with transportation programs as well as proximity for onsite observation by the SCDE. WJSE operates a community hub-and-spoke model, while OHSHP uses a multi-campus shuttle model. While work is still ongoing, here are some preliminary findings:



• **Equity Impact**

Students from single-parent households and lower-income families with two working parents are disproportionately impacted when charter schools do not offer transportation.

• **Programmatic Benefits**

Transportation programs enable access to community facilities (e.g., gyms, theaters, technical colleges). This increases academic, elective, and extracurricular offerings at relatively low costs.

• **Cost Savings**

Schools renting buses for 20–30 days per year could instead own a used bus and employ a part-time driver for comparable costs.

- **Estimated Annual cost per bus** (prorated bus cost, repairs, gas, insurance, driver, admin expense):
Low: \$17,800 Median: \$38,150 High: \$60,000

• **Per-Student Cost**

Estimated transportation program cost of approximately \$315 per student per year (including non-riders).



2026 Military Honor Cord Ceremony



This statewide event hosted by the SCDE publicly recognizes and honors high school seniors who have committed to serving in the U.S Armed Forces after graduation. We would love for all applicable charter school students to attend this event. Each student will receive a red, white, and blue honor cord to wear during their individual graduation ceremonies. These cords serve as a visible symbol of their dedication to service.

Major General (Retired) Todd B. McCaffrey, who serves as South Carolina's Secretary of Veterans' Affairs, will deliver the keynote address. You can view his biography [HERE](#). The 282nd Army Band of Fort Jackson will also provide the musical selections for the attendees.



All military bound seniors, their parents, and any school representatives are welcome to attend this ceremony, but we ask that you please submit your information by [completing this form](#) no later than April 24, 2026, if you plan to attend this event.

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 11:00am

**Location: Solomon Center (on base at Fort Jackson)
6510 Strom Thurmond Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29207 (Gate #2)**

