



Charleston County School District
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Media Release



Barrett Reese
 Principal of Academic Magnet High School

From Early College Success to Academic Magnet: Barrett Reese Named Principal

Charleston, SC (May 6, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) is pleased to announce that Barrett Reese has been named principal of Academic Magnet High School, effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. Reese currently serves as principal of Early College High School, where he has led with a clear focus on student opportunity, strong culture, and academic excellence. During his tenure, Early College has achieved remarkable outcomes, including 80 percent of graduating seniors earning an associate degree, 100 percent of students meeting College and Career Readiness benchmarks, and exceptional academic performance with 100 percent of students earning a C or higher on the English II End-of-Course exam.

Under his leadership, the school has also built a nationally recognized positive school culture, with 98 percent of students reporting a strong social and learning environment, placing the school in the 99th percentile nationwide. His work has centered on expanding access to rigorous coursework, strengthening instructional practices through AVID, and ensuring every student is supported through a comprehensive system of academic and social-emotional supports.

“Barrett Reese is a thoughtful, student-centered leader who understands how to create both excellence and opportunity at the same time,” said Superintendent Anita Huggins. “His track record at Early College High School speaks for itself, and he has built a culture where students are thriving, achieving at high levels, and preparing for their futures. I am confident he will continue that success at Academic Magnet.”

Mr. Reese’s leadership reflects a commitment to high expectations paired with strong systems of support. At Early College, he has overseen more than 1,400 dual credit enrollments annually, strengthened partnerships with Trident Technical College, and implemented collaborative, learner-centered instructional practices that empower both students and teachers.

Prior to serving as principal, Mr. Reese held roles as assistant principal at Early College High School and Simmons-Pinckney Middle School, where he focused on instructional leadership, student support systems, and school culture development.

CCSD also extends its appreciation to current Academic Magnet principal Jacob Perlmutter for his leadership and lasting impact on the school community. Under his leadership, Academic Magnet has continued its tradition of academic excellence and national recognition, and his dedication to students, staff, and families has helped shape the school's strong foundation.

Mr. Reese holds a Master of Arts in Teaching and a certification in Secondary Administration from The Citadel Graduate College, as well as a Bachelor of Arts from the University of South Carolina.

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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.