

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Orangeburg County School District Students Selected for
2026 Palmetto Girls State and Boys State Programs**

Orangeburg, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) is proud to recognize 14 exceptional students who have been selected to represent their schools and communities at the 2026 sessions of American Legion Auxiliary Palmetto Girls State and American Legion Palmetto Boys State, two of South Carolina's most prestigious leadership and civic engagement programs. The weeklong programs provide rising high school seniors with immersive experiences in government, leadership, citizenship, and public service while bringing together some of the state's most promising student leaders.

2026 Girls State Delegates | Representing OCSD at Palmetto Girls State are:

Edisto High School

- Hannah Johnson
- Cameron Patterson

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

- McKenzie Grace King
- Raleigh Nykia Wright

Held on the campus of Presbyterian College, Palmetto Girls State allows students to participate in a hands-on simulation of state and local government. Delegates campaign for office, draft legislation, engage in debates, and learn the responsibilities of civic leadership while developing valuable communication and teamwork skills.

2026 Boys State Delegates | Representing OCSD at Palmetto Boys State are:

Bethune-Bowman High School

- Ryan Cannon

Lake Marion High School & Technology Center

- Amir Hopkins
- Reginald Jefferson

North High School

- Ahmad Hunter

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

- Gavin Gore
- Hayward Jean
- Zephaniah Price
- Oterrian Robinson
- Patrick Hubbard
- Jeremiah Robins

Palmetto Boys State provides students with an in-depth understanding of government through practical experiences that include elections, legislative sessions, judicial proceedings, and leadership training. Participants learn firsthand how local and state government's function while strengthening their abilities as future leaders and engaged citizens. "Opportunities like Girls State allow our students to step into leadership roles and experience firsthand how government works," said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "We are proud of these young women for earning this honor and know they will represent Orangeburg County School District with excellence while gaining knowledge and skills that will serve them well into the future."

Participation in Girls State and Boys State is highly competitive and is considered one of the highest honors available to high school juniors. Students are selected based on leadership potential, academic success, community involvement, and a demonstrated commitment to making a positive impact in their schools and communities. OCSD remains committed to ensuring all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through meaningful educational experiences that prepare them for success in college, careers, and civic life.

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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