



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Academic Magnet Students Make South Carolina TSA History at National Conference

Charleston, S.C (July 6, 2026) - Forty-five students from Academic Magnet High School traveled to Washington, D.C. from June 22–26 to compete at the 2026 Technology Student Association (TSA) National Conference held in Washington, D.C., and they returned home having made South Carolina TSA history.

For the first time ever, a South Carolina school earned Top 10 national finishes in three different TSA events during the same conference. Academic Magnet was also the only school from South Carolina to place in the Top 10 this year, showcasing the talent, dedication, and hard work of its students.

Among the school's standout performances, Xi Chen, Keerthana Samuel, Victoria Haber, Chloe Hwang, and Lois Hwang earned an impressive fourth Place nationally in Children's Stories, an event that combines creativity, technology, and storytelling. Their project stood out among competitors from across the country and earned them a place on the national stage.

In CAD Engineering, Xavier Nutting earned seventh Place nationally, demonstrating exceptional engineering and design skills in one of TSA's most challenging technical competitions.

Academic Magnet's computer science students also had an outstanding showing. All three of the school's Coding teams advanced to the national semifinals, an achievement that few schools can claim. The team of Jacob Beuk and Roger Shi continued their impressive run through the competition and finished among the Top 10 teams in the nation.

"What makes this accomplishment so special is not just placing in the top 10, but the journey these students took to get there," said TSA Advisor Jill Beuk. "They spent countless hours after school, on weekends, and throughout the year preparing for these events. Watching them compete against the best students in the country and seeing their hard work pay off was incredibly rewarding."

The TSA National Conference brings together thousands of students from across the United States to compete in STEM-related events that challenge their knowledge, creativity, leadership, teamwork, and technical skills. Simply qualifying for nationals is a significant accomplishment; earning Top 10 finishes places students among the very best in the country.

Academic Magnet's National Top 10 Finishes



4th Place – Children's Stories: Xi Chen, Keerthana Samuel, Victoria Haber, Chloe Hwang, and Lois Hwang

7th Place – CAD Engineering: Xavier Jones

Top 10 – Coding: Jacob Beuk and Roger Li

In addition to these national recognitions, all three Academic Magnet Coding teams (Rashad Abbas, Sameen Basunia, Jacob Beuk, Tig Northrup, Berkay Sahin, and Roger Shi) advanced to the semifinals, highlighting the strength and depth of the school's computer science program.

The success at the 2026 TSA National Conference reflects Academic Magnet's commitment to excellence in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. More importantly, it reflects the dedication, perseverance, and passion of the students who represented their school, their community, and the state of South Carolina with pride.

As the students returned home from Washington, D.C., they brought back more than awards and trophies; they brought back a historic achievement that will serve as an inspiration for future generations of Academic Magnet TSA members. For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district dedicated to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and the support needed to thrive. As South Carolina's second-largest school system, CCSD serves more than 50,000 students across 91 schools and specialized programs throughout 1,300 square miles of coastal communities, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Anita Huggins, CCSD is focused on accelerating student achievement, expanding opportunities, and preparing every student for success in college, career, and life. Recent district accomplishments include record-high academic performance on state assessments, increasing graduation rates, and significant gains in college and career readiness, reflecting the district's commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence. Through the Peninsula Promise, CCSD is also expanding access to early learning, college and career pathways, arts, and family support services to create seamless opportunities for students living on the historic Charleston Peninsula.

CCSD offers a diverse and expanding portfolio of educational choices, including neighborhood, magnet, charter, Montessori, and International Baccalaureate (IB) schools and programs. Students have access to rich learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); visual and performing arts; world languages; military and leadership programs; career and technical education; dual enrollment and early college opportunities; and other innovative pathways designed to meet a wide range of interests and aspirations.

Working in partnership with families, community organizations, higher education institutions, and industry leaders, CCSD remains committed to creating equitable opportunities, fostering student success, and ensuring that every graduate is prepared to contribute and compete in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.