



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Charleston County School District Recognized Nationally for Enrollment Growth and Strategic Investment in Teachers

Charleston, S.C (July 15, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) has been recognized as one of only 11 large urban school districts in the nation to experience student enrollment growth over the past eight years, according to a newly released report from the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS).

The report, *K 12 Student Enrollment and Teacher Staffing Trends: A Comparison Across Urban School Districts, 2016 to 17 through 2024 to 25*, found that while enrollment across the nation's largest urban school districts declined by 13.3 percent on average, Charleston County School District grew student enrollment by 2.7 percent during the same period.

The report also highlights CCSD's strategic investment in its educators. Between 2016 to 17 and 2024 to 25, the District increased its teacher workforce by 20.0 percent, a deliberate investment made possible through the District's Weighted Student Funding (WSF) model. Under WSF, resources are allocated based on student enrollment and student needs, allowing principals to make local decisions that best support their students by adding classroom teachers, interventionists, special education staff, and other instructional positions.

"This report confirms what we have seen firsthand across Charleston County. Families continue to choose our schools because they believe in the exceptional educational opportunities we provide," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "While many urban districts across the country are grappling with declining enrollment and difficult budget decisions, Charleston County School District is growing because our Board has made intentional investments in students, educators, and high-quality learning environments. Our Weighted Student Funding model ensures that resources follow students and their needs, empowering principals to make decisions that have the greatest impact on student achievement. We are proud that our growth reflects the confidence our community has placed in our schools."

Nationally, the report notes that declining enrollment has created significant fiscal challenges for many districts, resulting in school consolidations, staffing reductions, and difficult operational decisions. Charleston County School District stands apart by maintaining enrollment growth while continuing to expand instructional capacity to improve student outcomes.

Board Chair Pamela McKinney said the findings validate the Board's long-term commitment to investing strategically in students.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anita W. Huggins, M.Ed., Superintendent of Schools
Sully Witte, Public Information Officer

"This national recognition affirms that Charleston County School District is moving in the right direction," McKinney said. "The Board has remained committed to making thoughtful, student-centered investments through our Weighted Student Funding model while maintaining fiscal responsibility. We are proud that families continue to choose Charleston County schools and grateful to our educators and staff whose dedication makes this success possible."

The Council of the Great City Schools represents 82 of the nation's largest urban public school systems, serving more than eight million students. According to the report, only 11 member districts experienced enrollment growth between the 2016 to 17 and 2024 to 25 school years, placing Charleston County School District among a select group of urban districts demonstrating sustained growth during a period of national enrollment decline.

CCSD's continued enrollment growth, combined with strategic investments in its instructional workforce, reflects the District's ongoing commitment to ensuring every student has access to high-quality teaching, innovative learning opportunities, and the supports necessary to achieve success.

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.