



Charleston County School District
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Media Release



Veteran Educator Leanne Sheppard Joins CCSD's Elementary Learning Community Leadership Team

Charleston, S.C (July 11, 2026) - The Charleston County School District (CCSD) has appointed Leanne Sheppard as Interim Executive Director of the Elementary Learning Community, effective immediately.

A veteran educator and administrator with more than three decades of experience in Charleston County School District, Sheppard has served students, families, and schools in a variety of leadership roles spanning the classroom, school administration, and district leadership. Throughout her career, she has been recognized for building systems that support student success, strengthening school operations, and developing collaborative partnerships.

As Interim Executive Director, Sheppard will support elementary principals by providing leadership, strategic guidance, and operational support while working closely with schools to strengthen student outcomes and advance the district's priorities.

"Leanne has dedicated her career to serving the students and schools of Charleston County, and her depth of knowledge is unmatched," said Dr. Jamie McCarthy, Associate Superintendent of the Elementary Learning Community. "She understands our district from every perspective and has spent decades building relationships, solving complex challenges, and helping schools succeed. Her experience, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to students make her an outstanding addition to our executive leadership team."

Before transitioning to district leadership, Sheppard served as principal of Pinckney Elementary School after beginning her career as an elementary classroom teacher. She also served as principal of East Cooper Summer School and has held leadership roles supporting curriculum, school improvement, and instructional programming throughout her career.

Sheppard earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the College of Charleston and a Master of Education in School Administration from The Citadel.

"Leanne's career reflects a lifelong commitment to serving CCSD children and supporting our schools," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "She brings an extraordinary depth of institutional knowledge, a collaborative spirit, and a passion for helping others succeed. Her experience across so many areas of our district will be an incredible asset as she works alongside our principals to ensure every student has the opportunity to thrive."

In her new role, Sheppard will work with elementary school leaders to strengthen instructional and operational excellence, build leadership capacity, and support continuous improvement across the district.

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.