



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Following Constituent Board Dissolution, CCSD **Delivers Measurable Results**

New districtwide processes improve timelines and create greater consistency for student discipline and transfer decisions

CHARLESTON, S.C. (August 13, 2026) – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is reporting positive first-year results following the transition of responsibilities previously handled by the county's constituent school boards to district-level processes.

Following state legislation dissolving Charleston County's eight constituent school boards effective July 1, 2025, CCSD established new processes for student discipline hearings, transfers, and appeals. The goal was to create a more consistent, timely, and transparent experience for students, families, and schools across the district.

A review of the 2025–2026 school year shows the new discipline hearing process significantly reduced wait times. The average time from receipt of a hearing packet to a hearing decreased from approximately 19 days in 2024–2025 to 14 days in 2025–2026, a 25% percent improvement. Collectively, families and schools experienced more than 4,200 fewer waiting days during the year. The district also saw an 8 percent decrease in total discipline infractions referred through the hearing process, from 1,017 to 935, while the number of hearing packets decreased from 724 to 657.

"We knew this transition was an opportunity to build a process that was consistent across Charleston County while keeping students and families at the center of our work," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Our first year shows meaningful progress. Decisions are happening more quickly, schools have clearer processes, and families continue to have important opportunities for review and appeal. We will continue looking at the data and listening to our schools and families as we strengthen the process."

"The progress we've seen is about more than efficiency. It means students are spending less time waiting for decisions, families have greater clarity about what to expect, and our schools are able to move forward with the right support in place," said Dr. Shavonna Coakley, Associate Superintendent of School Support, Community Engagement, and Alternative Programs.

CCSD also implemented a district-level student transfer review process using certified district employees serving on review committees and hearing panels. During the March transfer window, 379 applications were received, 348 met eligibility criteria, and 275 students were

offered seats with nearly eight out of 10 eligible applicants. Families receiving an adverse decision retained opportunities to appeal first to a district hearing panel and then to the CCSD Board of Trustees.

Throughout the transition, CCSD has focused on enhanced communication, streamlined case management, data-driven decision-making, and collaboration with schools. The district will continue reviewing outcomes and refining the processes to support its commitment to fair processes, safe schools, and student success.

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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.