



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Four CCSD High Schools Named Among South Carolina's Top 10 by U.S. News & World Report

CHARLESTON, S.C. (August 20, 2026) – U.S. News & World Report released its annual Best High Schools rankings this week, and Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that four CCSD high schools rank among the Top 10 in South Carolina.

CCSD schools recognized in this year's state rankings include:

- Academic Magnet High School — #3 in South Carolina
- Charleston School of the Arts — #4 in South Carolina
- Lucy Garrett Beckham High School — #6 in South Carolina
- Wando High School — #10 in South Carolina

Academic Magnet High School also earned national recognition, ranking #23 in the United States in the U.S. News & World Report's 2026-2027 Best High Schools list. The distinction places Academic Magnet among the highest-performing public high schools in the nation.

U.S. News evaluates high schools using six key indicators, including student performance on state assessments, graduation rates, and college readiness based on participation and performance in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs. Nearly 27,000 public high schools were evaluated for this year's rankings, with approximately 18,000 receiving a numerical rank.

"These recognitions reflect the dedication of our students, educators, and families across Charleston County," said Anita Huggins, Superintendent of Charleston County School District. "Having four of our high schools rank among the best in South Carolina, and one among the best in the nation, speaks to the strength of the teaching, learning, and support happening in CCSD classrooms every day. We are incredibly proud of these school communities and excited to build on this momentum as we continue strengthening outcomes and expanding opportunities for students across all of our CCSD schools."

For more information, contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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.