



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Dr. Shavonna Coakley Selected for Two Community Leadership Roles

CHARLESTON, S.C. (August 27, 2026) — Charleston County School District (CCSD) Associate Superintendent of School Support and Community Engagement Dr. Shavonna Coakley has been selected to serve in two community leadership roles that will strengthen collaboration between CCSD and key agencies serving children, families, and the broader community. Dr. Coakley will participate in the Charleston County Coroner's Office's Child Death Review process and has also been selected as the Local Healthcare Community Representative for the Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) for the 2026–2028 term.

"Strong schools are strengthened by strong communities, and that means being willing to work alongside the partners who support our students and families beyond the classroom," said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Dr. Coakley brings a thoughtful and collaborative perspective to these important conversations, and I am grateful that she will represent CCSD in these roles. Her participation will help us deepen our partnerships, learn from our community, and identify opportunities to better support the whole child."

Coakley said these opportunities provide an important opportunity for the district to strengthen communication and collaboration with agencies that play a critical role in supporting children and families

"Bringing the education perspective to these conversations ensures that our schools have a voice when our community is working to address complex issues affecting our students and families," explained Coakley.

Through the Child Death Review process, Dr. Coakley will bring an educational perspective to reviews involving school-aged children, helping community partners better understand each child's educational experiences, available supports, family engagement, and other school-related factors that may provide important context. The review process is designed to identify gaps, missed opportunities, and potential prevention strategies through collaboration among community stakeholders.

As the Local Healthcare Community Representative on the CJCC, Dr. Coakley will bring the perspective of the education community to conversations surrounding local criminal justice and community well-being. The appointment provides another opportunity for CCSD to collaborate with healthcare, public safety, government, and community partners on issues that affect children, families, and the broader community.



“CCSD now has a seat at the table in two important community processes that are directly connected to issues affecting our students, including trauma, crime, safety, and overall well-being,” said Dr. Coakley. “Our schools are connected to so many of the systems that support our students, and I am honored to represent Charleston County School District in these conversations. I look forward to learning from our community partners, sharing our schools’ perspectives, and working together to identify meaningful opportunities to support our students and families.”

For more information, contact CCSD’s 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.