



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD to Launch New Tools to Support Healthy Technology Use

New classroom technology guidance emphasizes balance, purposeful use, and family partnership

CHARLESTON, S.C. (August 31, 2026) — Charleston County School District (CCSD) will launch new [analytics tools](#) this year, giving families greater visibility into how students use district-issued devices and additional tools to support healthy technology habits outside the school day. Through the portal, parents and guardians will be able to understand how students use their Chromebooks, including the websites and applications they access. District safeguards will remain in place, and educators will continue to guide technology use during the instructional day.

The launch is part of CCSD's broader commitment to using technology in a balanced and purposeful way. Earlier this year, Superintendent Anita Huggins convened a Technology Task Force of educators, instructional leaders, technology staff, and other district experts to review research, gather feedback from schools, and examine practices from districts across the country. The task force's recommendations helped CCSD set clearer expectations for classroom technology use, including recommended screen-time ranges by grade level. Teachers will use technology when it adds value to a lesson while continuing to give students opportunities to read, write, talk, collaborate, solve problems, move, create, and learn through hands-on experiences.

"Technology can be a powerful tool for learning when it is used with purpose and balance," said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Our teachers will continue to lead instruction and create meaningful learning experiences, while the Lightspeed Parent Portal will give families greater insight and more tools to support healthy technology habits at home. This work reflects our commitment to partnering with families and preparing students to succeed in an increasingly digital world."

CCSD's screen-time guidance supports healthy, consistent practices while allowing flexibility for students who rely on assistive tools such as text-to-speech, speech-to-text, real-time captioning, and visual supports to access instruction.



Grade-Level Expectations

PK3-PK4: Technology use should be brief, teacher-directed, and the exception rather than a routine part of the day. Most learning should occur through play, conversation, movement, music, outdoor exploration, and hands-on activities. **Generally, no more than 15-20 minutes per school day**, with most days involving little or no screen time.

Kindergarten-Grade 1: Technology should be used in short, purposeful ways that support instruction, such as targeted activities, small-group instruction, assessment, or specific learning needs. **Generally, 20-30 minutes per school day**, balanced with teacher-led and hands-on learning.

Grades 2-5: Technology should be used when it adds meaningful instructional value, such as supporting practice and feedback, creativity, or access. **Typically, 30-60 minutes per school day**, although projects, assessments, or individual learning needs may require additional time.

Grades 6–8: Technology is used regularly to support instruction, but screen time should remain purposeful and balanced. Students should not routinely spend most of a class period working independently on a device unless there is a clear learning need. Teachers should include device-free activities such as discussion, writing, collaboration, labs, movement, and hands-on learning.

Grades 9 through 12: Technology supports learning and prepares students for college, careers, and a digital world. Use will vary by course and learning goal, but should be balanced with direct instruction, discussion, writing, collaboration, labs, hands-on experiences, and other forms of active learning. Students should regularly learn, create, and demonstrate their understanding without devices.

The guidance also addresses personalized learning platforms and generative artificial intelligence. District-approved digital tools should support classroom instruction without replacing meaningful interaction with teachers and peers. Approved artificial intelligence tools should be used safely, ethically, and appropriately to support student learning.

CCSD will share additional information with families before the portal launches, including instructions for accessing and using its features.

[Learn more](#) about technology use in CCSD classrooms.

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.