



Charleston County School District
Office of Communications
75 Calhoun St.,
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 937-6300

Media Release

Charleston County School District and Charleston Southern University Announce Direct Admission Partnership for Qualifying Students

New partnership offers eligible CCSD students a streamlined path to college acceptance with application fees waived

CHARLESTON, S.C. (September 2, 2026) - Charleston County School District (CCSD) and Charleston Southern University (CSU) today announced a new direct admission partnership that will provide qualifying CCSD high school seniors with a streamlined path to college acceptance, removing barriers, and simplifying the college application process for students across the district.

The partnership is effective immediately and will first serve students in the graduating Class of 2027. Through the agreement, Charleston Southern will extend direct admission offers to CCSD seniors who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.00 or higher through the end of junior year
- Good standing with their high school, entering senior year
- On track to earn a South Carolina high school diploma

CSU will waive application fees for students at all CCSD high schools who receive a direct admission offer. Students who choose to accept an offer must submit an in-progress transcript to confirm their eligibility and, once enrolled, will be subject to CSU's student policies and code of conduct.

"This partnership is a powerful example of what's possible when our community comes together to create more opportunities for students," said Anita Huggins, superintendent of Charleston County School District. "Our goal is for every CCSD student to graduate with a strong plan for what comes next, whether that is college, a career, or another opportunity that prepares them for long-term success. We are grateful to Charleston Southern for partnering with us to expand access and opportunity for students across CCSD."



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

“Charleston Southern is proud to strengthen our partnership with Charleston County School District and create a more direct path for local students to pursue higher education,” said B. Keith Faulkner, president of Charleston Southern University. “Direct admission gives qualified students confidence early in their senior year that they have a place at CSU and an opportunity to continue learning, growing, and preparing for their future right here in the Charleston community.”

This direct admission partnership supports CCSD’s strategic goal of increasing opportunities for students to graduate college or career-ready and will be available to eligible seniors at all CCSD high schools beginning this school year, with the graduating class of 2027.

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.