



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD and Trident Technical College Partner to Expand College and Career Opportunities for Students

Talent Search program grant strengthens connection between CCSD students and postsecondary opportunities available close to home

Charleston, SC (September 30, 2026) – Students at four Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools will benefit from a program that expands opportunities to prepare for and pursue postsecondary education, workforce training, and careers. CCSD and Trident Technical College (TTC) are partnering to facilitate a Talent Search program grant funded through the U.S. Department of Education. The Talent Search program is designed to identify students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in postsecondary education and provide them with the support, information, and resources needed to reach their goals.

The \$490,000 grant is anticipated to serve 980 students annually in the Tri-County area. Participating Charleston County schools include Baptist Hill Middle and High, Burke High, Military Magnet Middle and High, and Simmons-Pinckney Middle Schools, where students will have the additional supports they need to complete high school and go on to college, apprenticeships, or other postsecondary credential programs. Services include academic support, financial aid guidance, and career counseling.

“CCSD and Trident Technical College share a long history of working collaboratively to expand educational and career preparation opportunities for students,” said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. “Our partnership reflects our mutual commitment to helping students achieve their academic and career goals through meaningful pathways to postsecondary success. We are confident that the Talent Search program will have a transformative impact on the lives of our students and their families. We look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to advance educational opportunities in our region.”

Through the partnership, CCSD and TTC will work together to provide participating students with personalized academic, financial, college, and career guidance. The program will also broaden students’ awareness of the many pathways available after high school, including traditional college programs, career and technical education, industry-recognized credentials, Registered Apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, and other work-based learning opportunities.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

The program also emphasizes pathways leading to high-demand careers in skilled trades, healthcare, manufacturing, information technology, shipbuilding, and other fields critical to the region's workforce.

The Talent Search program is a five-year initiative designed to support student success from secondary school through postsecondary education. Nationally, the program aims to increase secondary school persistence and graduation, as well as postsecondary enrollment and completion among participating students.

"This partnership reflects our shared commitment to student success and economic opportunity," said Vicky Wood, President of Trident Technical College. "Together, CCSD and Trident Technical College are helping students prepare for local high-skilled, high-wage jobs that, in turn, support our economy and strengthen our community."

"We recognize the significant value that the Talent Search program will bring to our schools," Huggins added. "By providing academic, career, and financial counseling as well as assistance with college applications, particularly for students who are first-generation or from low-income backgrounds,

Talent Search aligns seamlessly with our district's aim to ensure every student has access to the resources and support needed for postsecondary and career success."

For more information, please contact the 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.