Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Vision To Learn Charleston provides 30 CPA Students with new Glasses

CHARLESTON, S.C. (October 8, 2026) — Vision To Learn Charleston returned to Charleston County School District (CCSD) in a big way! Thirty students from Charleston Progressive Academy received glasses courtesy of DIFF eyewear, which is opening a new store in Charleston next month.

The celebration included a DJ, balloon arches, a surprise guest appearance, and pizza for the students!

Vision to Learn offers a concrete solution, real hope, and a simple yet powerful tool to help children in need by providing a free pair of glasses. One in four students lacks the glasses they need. Vision to Learn's mobile clinics bring eye exams and glasses right to students at their schools.

"Vision is foundational to learning, and something as simple as having the right pair of glasses can make a tremendous difference in a child's ability to see, learn, and fully participate in the classroom," said CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins. "We are grateful to Vision To Learn Charleston and DIFF eyewear for helping remove a barrier for our students and making this such a special experience for the children at Charleston Progressive Academy."

The process is fun for students. They get to choose from a wide selection of frames while on board the mobile clinic.

"This donation was about so much more than receiving a new pair of glasses; it was about our students seeing a brighter future and empowering them to become purposeful learners and future leaders," said Charleston Progressive Academy Principal Wanda Sheats. "We are incredibly grateful to Vision To Learn and DIFF eyewear for bringing this experience directly to our school and giving our students the gift of seeing their world a little more clearly."

To date, Vision to Learn has conducted over 19,000 eye exams and distributed over 15, 800 glasses to students in Charleston and Dorchester counties.

"Clear vision plays such an important role in a student's ability to engage in learning, from reading the board and books to participating in everyday classroom activities," said Ellen Nitz, CCSD Executive Director of Nursing Services. "Vision To Learn helps us address an important health need right where our students are, and we are thankful for their partnership and commitment to helping children see and succeed."

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.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives. Dedicated to ensuring equitable health in all communities, the organization has been a leading source of health information for more than one hundred years. Supported by more than 35 million volunteers globally, we fund groundbreaking research, advocate for the public's health, and provide critical resources to save and improve lives affected by cardiovascular disease and stroke. By driving breakthroughs and implementing proven solutions in science, policy, and care, we work tirelessly to advance health and transform lives every day. Connect with us on heart.org, Facebook, X or by calling 1-800-AHA-USA1.