



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD Schools Continue to Demonstrate Strong Academic Growth on 2026 State Report Cards

57 Schools Earn Good or Excellent Ratings; Nearly Half Earn Excellent

CHARLESTON, S.C. (October 12, 2026) — Charleston County School District (CCSD) continues to demonstrate strong academic progress, with 57 school report cards earning Good or Excellent ratings on the 2026 South Carolina School Report Cards, according to results released by the [South Carolina Department of Education](#).

Of the district's 90 rated school report cards, 43 earned an Excellent rating, and 14 earned a Good rating. The number of Excellent ratings increased from 34 in 2025 to 43 in 2026, while more than 92 percent of rated schools earned an Average rating or higher, compared to 84 percent last year.

The results reflect continued improvement across the district, with 25 school report cards moving up at least one rating category and 65 schools increasing their overall report card scores. Over the past three years, the number of schools receiving the two lowest ratings, Below Average or Unsatisfactory, has declined by more than half among schools with comparable ratings.

"These results are a reflection of what happens when we are intentional about creating the conditions for every child to thrive," said CCSD Superintendent Anita W. Huggins. "As I shared during our State of the Schools Address, growth doesn't happen by accident. It requires us to prepare the soil, equip our educators, nurture every child, and develop strong leaders. I am incredibly proud of the progress we are seeing across Charleston County, especially in schools that have made significant gains. That progress represents years of hard work, a shared commitment to excellence, and a belief in what is possible for our students. We have much to celebrate, but our work is far from finished. We will continue building on what is working, addressing areas where improvement is needed, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential."

Several schools achieved significant milestones in 2026. Burke High School improved two rating categories from Below Average to Good for the first time, while Deer Park Middle School moved from Average to Good, becoming the first neighborhood middle school in North Charleston to earn that distinction. Military Magnet Academy earned its first Excellent rating, continuing a three-year progression from Average to Good to Excellent.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Other schools advancing to Excellent include Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, Murray-LaSaine Montessori's elementary and middle school programs, Haut Gap Middle, and James Simons Montessori Middle. Other schools advancing to an Excellent rating include Ashley River Creative Arts Elementary, both the elementary and middle school programs at Murray-LaSaine Montessori, Haut Gap Middle, and James Simons Montessori Middle. Several charter and public-private partnership schools also improved to Excellent, including Carolina Voyager Elementary, Charleston Charter School for Math and Science Middle, Meeting Street Brentwood Elementary (from Average to Excellent), Meeting Street Brentwood Middle (from Good to Excellent), and Meeting Street Burns Elementary (from Good to Excellent). Edith L. Frierson Montessori Elementary, Minnie Hughes Elementary, and Charleston Development Academy Middle also improved from Average to Good.

The district also celebrated progress among schools moving out of the lowest performance categories. A.C. Corcoran Elementary, Chicora Elementary, Ladson Elementary, Matilda F. Dunston Elementary, Pepperhill Elementary, Morningside Middle, and Northwoods Middle all improved from Below Average to Average, and Simmons Pinckney Middle moved from Unsatisfactory to Below Average.

The school report card results build on CCSD's continued academic gains in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics. On the 2026 SC READY assessments, 70 percent of students in grades 3–5 met or exceeded expectations in ELA, while 64.2 percent met or exceeded expectations in mathematics. Among students in grades 6–8, 67.4 percent met or exceeded expectations in ELA and 56.9 percent in mathematics. While 61.5% of students tested in grades 4 and 6 met or exceeded expectations in SC Ready Science (+4.3 percentage point increase from the previous year).

These academic gains are particularly significant as CCSD continues to focus on closing achievement gaps and improving outcomes for historically underserved student populations. Since 2022, the percentage of Black students in grades 3–8 meeting or exceeding expectations increased by 18.6 percentage points in ELA and 10.8 percentage points in mathematics. Students with disabilities and students living in poverty have also demonstrated meaningful gains in both subjects.

CCSD students also demonstrated progress on high school End-of-Course assessments, with 76.6 percent meeting proficiency expectations in English 2, 55.3 percent in Biology, and 56.8 percent in U.S. History and the Constitution. The district improved in all three subjects and outperformed the state in each. Also, in three years, College and/or Career Readiness rates for CCSD students have risen nearly 9 percentage points from 80.5% in 2022 to 89.2% in 2026. Graduation rates are at an all-time high of 91.8%

"Behind every one of these numbers is a student whose future is being shaped by what happens in our classrooms," Huggins added. "We know there is still work to do, particularly in schools where students are not yet achieving at the levels we expect. But these results affirm that our focus on strong instruction, supporting our educators, and providing students with the resources they need is making a difference."

The annual South Carolina School Report Cards provide families and communities with information about school performance, including academic achievement, student progress, graduation rates, and other measures of school success.

To learn more about CCSD's progress, accomplishments, and priorities for the future, families and community members are encouraged to watch Superintendent Huggins' recent 2026 State of the Schools Address.

Families can review individual school results at www.screportcards.com. For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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***Source Note.** The district has 90 rated report-card entries in 2026. The 89-entry two-year comparison includes only entries rated in both 2025 and 2026; Johns Island Elementary opened in 2025–26 and therefore is not included in the year-over-year comparison. If we were to include Johns Island Elementary in the 2026 comparison, the district has 90 rated report card entries total in 2026, consisting of 43 Excellent, 14 Good, 25 Average, 7 Below Average and 1 Unsatisfactory.

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.