



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

CCSD Board of Trustees Awards Superintendent Anita Huggins Exemplary Evaluation for Second Consecutive Year

Huggins' overall score increases as district continues to demonstrate significant gains in student achievement and operational excellence

CHARLESTON, S.C. (October 26, 2026) - The Charleston County School District (CCSD) Board of Trustees has awarded Superintendent Anita Huggins an Exemplary rating in her annual performance evaluation, exceeding last year's rating. This achievement comes after recognizing another year of significant academic gains, strengthened district operations, and measurable progress toward the district's strategic priorities.

At its special called meeting on Monday, October 19, 2026, the Board voted to approve the Superintendent's evaluation, which resulted in an overall score of 31.5 out of 33 possible points, an increase from 30.89 the previous year. The evaluation reflects the continued progress of CCSD under Huggins' leadership. In the last year, student achievement improved across multiple measures, and the district continues to demonstrate sustained progress in areas directly impacting student success.

Among the strongest areas identified by the Board were instructional delivery, literacy and mathematics achievement, graduation rates, college and career readiness, strategic plan implementation, teacher retention, and fiscal management.

The results come as CCSD continues to celebrate some of its strongest academic performance in recent years. The district's 2026 SC READY results showed continued growth in both English Language Arts and mathematics, with proficiency increasing 18.6 and 12.9 percentage points, respectively, since 2021. CCSD also outperformed the state in both subjects, while its graduation rate increased to nearly 92% for the first time with the Class of 2026.

The district's recently released 2026 school report cards further demonstrate this progress, with 57 schools earning Good or Excellent ratings, including 43 schools rated Excellent, up from 34 the previous year. Overall, 92% of rated schools earned an Average or higher designation, compared with 84% just last year.



Charleston County
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

The evaluation was completed by eight of the Board's nine trustees and incorporates both measurable performance indicators and qualitative feedback. The Board specifically commended Huggins for her progress in increasing student outcomes and encouraged continued focus on her vision and established district priorities.

"This evaluation reflects not only the Board's confidence in Superintendent Huggins' leadership, but also the significant progress our district continues to make for students," said Board Chair Pamela McKinney. "Year after year, we are seeing meaningful, measurable improvements in academic achievement, graduation rates, and opportunities for our children. These results are the product of a clear vision, high expectations, and a relentless commitment to student success. While we know there is more work ahead, the Board is incredibly proud of the direction of our district and the strong leadership that continues to move us forward."

The overall evaluation reflects the Board's commitment to accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement, while supporting the Superintendent's ongoing efforts to ensure a high-quality education for all students.

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.

Statement from CCSD Superintendent Anita Huggins Regarding Board Evaluation

I am deeply honored and grateful to receive an Exemplary evaluation from the Charleston County School District Board of Trustees. I sincerely appreciate the time, thoughtful feedback, and confidence of the Trustees who participated in this evaluation process, as well as the Board's continued partnership and commitment to our students. I am especially grateful to those Board members who took the time to meet with me and engage in meaningful conversations about our shared goals, district priorities, opportunities for my professional growth, and how we can continue working together to accelerate student achievement; I value the opportunity to reflect on both our progress and the important work ahead.

While I am personally honored by this evaluation, this recognition truly belongs to the extraordinary teachers, school leaders, and support professionals across CCSD who put STUDENTS first every single day. Our progress is the result of their tireless work and their unwavering commitment to ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed. Throughout our district, our employees are the heart of CCSD; they are the ones turning our shared vision into meaningful action, overcoming challenges, and making a difference in the lives of children. I am incredibly proud to serve alongside such talented, dedicated professionals, and I want them to know that this recognition is as much theirs as it is mine.

I am also grateful to the Board for its bold, visionary leadership and willingness to make important investments in our students and employees. From historic increases in employee compensation, particularly teacher pay, to the approval of CCSD's innovative Weighted Student Funding model, the Board has demonstrated a strong commitment to creating the conditions for success. These decisions, combined with the extraordinary efforts of our educators and staff and our collective focus on academic excellence, are contributing to improved student outcomes, a 97% teacher retention rate, and stronger learning environments across our district.

While we have much to celebrate, I also recognize that important work remains. This evaluation is not simply a recognition of what we have accomplished; it is a reminder of our responsibility to keep moving forward, raising expectations, and delivering on the promise of an exceptional education for every child. I am more committed than ever to accelerating student achievement and ensuring that every child and young adult in Charleston County has access to the opportunities they deserve. I firmly believe CCSD can become a premier national model for what is possible in public education when a community, its elected leaders, and its educators unite around a shared commitment to children.

I am truly blessed to serve this extraordinary district and am, again, deeply grateful to the Board for its confidence and support. Most importantly, I thank the thousands of CCSD employees whose dedication makes our progress possible. Our students are our purpose, and our best work is still ahead of us.

— Anita Huggins, Superintendent
Charleston County School District