Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Seven Charleston County School District Schools Named Palmetto's Finest Semi-Finalists

CHARLESTON, S.C. (November 6, 2026) – Seven Charleston County School District (CCSD) schools have been recognized as contenders for the 2027 Palmetto's Finest Award, one of South Carolina's most prestigious awards honoring outstanding schools and the work taking place to support student achievement.

Presented annually by the South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA), the Palmetto's Finest Awards recognize schools that demonstrate excellence in instruction and leadership, strong family and community engagement, and meaningful support from local business partners.

As part of the selection process, CCSD schools will welcome a team of judges to campuses in the coming weeks for a visit highlighting the incredible work of our students, teachers, and staff. CCSD looks forward to showcasing the creativity, dedication, and excellence that make our schools such special places to learn and grow!

Since 1978, SCASA has recognized schools across South Carolina for their commitment to creating positive and impactful learning environments. The selection process includes a comprehensive review of each school's programs and practices, centered on one fundamental question: What impact is this school making on the lives of students and the community, and is it deserving of the Palmetto's Finest Award?

The recognition of seven CCSD schools highlights the dedication of educators, school leaders, students, families, and community partners who work together to create meaningful educational opportunities and support student success.

The seven Charleston County School District schools recognized as Palmetto's Finest Semi-Finalists are:

Special Schools

Charleston County School of the Arts

Laurel Hill Primary School

Military Magnet Academy

Elementary Schools

Charles Pinkney Elementary School

Sullivan's Island Elementary School

High Schools

Lucy Beckham High School

Wando High School

"This recognition is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and commitment happening in our schools every day," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Our school communities are working together to ensure students have access to high-quality instruction, strong leadership, and the support they need to succeed. I am incredibly proud of these schools and grateful to the educators, families, and community partners who make this work possible."

The Palmetto's Finest Awards celebrate schools that are making a lasting difference in the lives of students and serving as positive examples of excellence in public education across South Carolina.

"Palmetto's Finest recognition speaks to the intentional work taking place in these schools to create engaging, supportive, and high-quality learning environments for every student," said Dr. Luke Clamp, Deputy Superintendent. "These achievements are the result of dedicated educators and school leaders who continually work to strengthen instruction, build meaningful relationships, and ensure students are prepared for success. We are proud to see their hard work recognized across the state."

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.