Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Lucy Beckham High School Coast Guard JROTC Program Awarded $2,600 Grant to Launch Cybersecurity Initiative

Mount Pleasant, SC (November 16, 2026) – The Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (CGJROTC) program at Lucy Beckham High School has been awarded a $2,600 STEM Institute Grant from the Navy League of the United States to support the development of a new cybersecurity initiative for JROTC students.

The grant, awarded through the Navy League's Greater Charleston Council, will help establish a JROTC Cybersecurity Program, beginning with Lucy Beckham High School's Coast Guard unit. The initiative is designed to expand students' exposure to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) while introducing opportunities to explore the growing field of cybersecurity.

The program is led by LTjg Ron Blake and Master Chief Joe Melton, with support from Charleston County School District's Career and Technology Education (CTE) team and the Navy League's Greater Charleston Council. Additional details about the program's curriculum, activities, and implementation will be announced as plans are finalized.

"We are grateful to the Navy League of the United States and its Greater Charleston Council for investing in our students and helping create new opportunities for them to explore high-demand career fields," said Superintendent Anita Huggins. "Partnerships like this strengthen the connection between classroom learning and real-world experiences, giving students the skills, confidence, and exposure they need to prepare for the future."

Lucy Beckham High School Principal Anna Dassing also celebrated the award, recognizing the leadership and dedication of the school's CGJROTC team.

"Lucy Beckham High School is proud to announce the expansion of its Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) STEM education opportunities with the addition of a new Cybersecurity Education Program," said Principal Anna Dassing. "Building on its existing Aviation and Aerospace Education Program, this new initiative will introduce cadets to cybersecurity fundamentals, digital defense, and emerging career opportunities in technology and national security."

The Navy League of the United States is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting America's sea services and educating the public about the importance of maritime and national security. Through initiatives such as its STEM Institute Grant program, the organization supports educational opportunities that encourage students to pursue STEM learning and careers.

Together, these programs reflect Lucy Beckham's commitment to providing innovative STEM education, developing student leadership, and preparing cadets for future opportunities in aviation, aerospace, cybersecurity, and public service.

For more information about Career and Technology Education opportunities in Charleston County School District, visit the CTE website.

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.