



“Through the shared vision of our Charleston Achieving Excellence plan, we are empowering students and teachers to succeed like never before. As a result, there is a new optimism around our work. This energy makes clear to everyone inside and outside our doors that our students are achieving excellence, and we are a great choice for any parents who want to prepare their children for success in the global 21st Century.”

—Dr. Nancy J. McGinley
Superintendent of Schools,
Charleston County School District



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Office of Communications
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Charleston > excellence is our standard County SCHOOL DISTRICT Our Schools & Programs: At a Glance



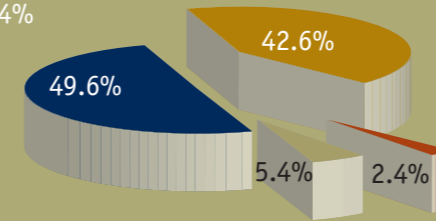
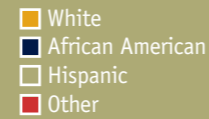
results access partnerships

Who We Are

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles of coastal lands. CCSD serves approximately 42,500 students in 80 schools (47 elementary, 14 middle, 11 high, and eight multi-level) and several specialized programs. CCSD's programs and schools are divided into four Learning Communities based on grade level, each headed by an Associate Superintendent.

Our Students:

Special Education Students: 10.8%
Students on Free or Reduced-Priced Lunch: 49.4%
Non-English Proficient Students: 5.2%



Our Employees

With approximately 5,500 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region. All staff, whether in or out of the classroom, share a commitment to excellence for every child. We are especially proud of our teachers; at the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, **teacher vacancies were at an all-time low**, down to 3.4 from over 100 just three years ago. CCSD is among the top 20 districts nationwide in its number of Board-Certified teachers.

Our Vision: Charleston Achieving Excellence

Building on the data-driven, foundational reforms of the *Charleston Plan for Excellence*, CCSD implemented a bold three-year vision of *Charleston Achieving Excellence* in Spring 2008. This vision centers on three goals and three values which are woven into every one of CCSD's strategies, actions, and systems.

The goals of *Charleston Achieving Excellence* are simple. CCSD is **elevating the achievement of all students, closing the achievement gap between groups of students, and boosting the graduation rate.** These are the kinds of results that will prepare whole generations of Charleston County children to succeed in school and beyond.

The plan also recognizes that these goals cannot be achieved without a solid bedrock of meaningful values to support them. Three core values—**Results, Access, and Partnerships**—help promote a collaborative and high-achieving culture always mindful that students are people, not test scores.

Our Mission

The mission of the Charleston County School District, a **dynamic system of challenging educational choices**, is to increase student achievement and close the gap between groups in order to **prepare all students to compete in a global economy** and make a positive contribution to our community and nation.

Our Choices

CCSD offers exciting and dynamic choices for students and parents, including **programs** ranging from pre-kindergarten to alternative and special needs; **10 district-wide magnet programs** (for which applications are required); and **seven charter schools.** Of the remaining neighborhood schools, several already offer **"partial" magnet options** that extend their reach. Due to the success and high demand of many of these schools, CCSD is currently expanding these options throughout the county.



Our Results: Achievement Higher Than Ever

Every day, CCSD schools and students prove that Charleston **is** achieving excellence. To ensure that students receive a well-rounded education and develop into healthy young adults, the district has **expanded existing collaborations** in support of child health and nutrition, literacy, and arts and music. District-wide, CCSD employees, partners, and volunteers work to promote a **college-bound culture** beginning in the early grades, connecting student learning in the classroom with positive future outcomes.

The results of these efforts can be seen across the county. On the 2008 state report card, the district increased its absolute rating to Average and jumped two levels to earn its first **Excellent growth** rating. This year, students **performed better on the Palmetto**

Achievement Challenge Test than ever before, outscoring the state at every level. Charleston County public schools are **safer than ever**—office referrals, serious incidents, suspensions and expulsions are all decreasing. The district **led the state in the number of Palmetto Gold & Silver Awards** earned, and 26 schools were recognized by the state for **closing the achievement gap.** **Jennie Moore Elementary** won a prestigious 2007 Blue Ribbon Award, placing the school among the best in the nation.

Our High Schools: Preparing Students for the 21st Century

The district has also made tremendous strides in delivering a world-class high school education. All CCSD high schools have career academies, and the district has enhanced a *High Schools That Work* reform agenda. Last year, scores on the HSAP—taken in high school—continued an upward trend. **Advanced Placement** scores and participation increased. ACT scores were the highest they had been in eleven years, and the **overall graduation rate increased 11%.** In the 2007-2008 school year, the district's students earned a record \$42,000,000 in scholarships, over \$6,000,000 more than the previous year.

Our Schools: The Best of the Best

CCSD is also proud to have some of the best secondary schools in the nation. For example, **Academic Magnet High** was ranked the 7th best high school in the country by *Newsweek* magazine and 9th best by *U.S. News and World Report.* *U.S. News* also ranked **School of the Arts** and **Wando High** among the top high schools nationwide.

Our Facilities

World-class students and families deserve world-class facilities, which is why the district continues to make great progress on the 2005-2009 **Capital Improvement building program.** This effort includes the building of 18 new state-of-the art learning environments, including three new high, five middle, eight elementary, and two alternative schools.



In addition, over \$20 million in capital funds will be invested in the coming years as part of a strategic **modernization initiative** aimed at ensuring that all CCSD students have access to cutting-edge technology in their classrooms and media centers.



- # goals
- elevate the achievement of all students
 - close the achievement gap
 - increase the graduation rate

CCSD in 2007-2008: Report Card Data

Good Absolute Rating

- *Ashley River Creative Arts-G
- *Drayton Hall Elementary-B
- *East Cooper Montessori Charter (Elementary)-AR
- *East Cooper Montessori Charter (Middle)-A
- James B. Edwards Elementary-A
- *Jennie Moore Elementary-B
- *Minnie Hughes Elementary-AR
- Moultrie Middle-B
- *Springfield Elementary-AR
- *St. Andrew's School of Math & Science-AR
- Thomas C. Cario Middle-B

Average Absolute Rating

- Baptist Hill High-E
- C E Williams Middle School for Creative and Scientific Arts-AR
- Charleston Progressive-AR
- Fort Johnson Middle-AR
- Hunley Park Elementary-A
- James Island Elementary-AR
- James Island Middle-AR
- Laing Middle-AR
- Lambs Elementary-A
- *Lincoln High-AR
- Mount Zion Elementary-AR
- Orange Grove Charter-G
- *Pepperhill Elementary-G
- *Stono Park Elementary-AR
- West Ashley High-E

At-Risk Absolute Rating

- Alice Birney Middle-AR
- Brentwood Middle-AR
- Burke High-B
- Charleston Progressive-B
- Edith L. Frierson Elementary-B
- Edmund A. Burns Elementary-AR
- Greg Mathis Charter-B
- Haut Gap Middle-AR
- James Simons Elementary-AR
- Jane Edwards Elementary-B
- Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary-B
- Mary Ford Elementary-AR
- Matilda F. Dunston Elementary-AR
- Midland Park Elementary-G
- Military Magnet Academy-AR
- Mitchell Elementary-AR
- Morningside Middle (Elementary)-AR
- Morningside Middle (Middle)-B
- North Charleston Elementary-AR
- North Charleston High-AR
- R B Stall High-B
- R D Schroder Middle-AR
- Sanders Clyde Elementary (Elementary)-AR
- Sanders Clyde Elementary (Middle)-AR
- Susan G. Boykin Academy-AR
- West Ashley Middle-B
- Wilmot Fraser Elementary-B

Excellent Absolute Rating

- *Academic Magnet High-E
- *Belle Hall Elementary-E
- *Buist Academy (Elementary)-G
- *Buist Academy (Middle)-G
- *Charles Pinckney Elementary-E
- *Charleston School of the Arts (High)-G
- *Charleston School of the Art (Middle)-G
- Charlestowne Academy-E
- *Garrett Academy of Technology-G
- *Harbor View Elementary-B
- James Island Charter High-G
- *Mamie Whitesides Elementary-B
- *Military Magnet Academy-E
- *Mount Pleasant Academy-G
- *Stiles Point Elementary-G
- *Sullivans Island Elementary-E
- Wando High-E

Below Average Absolute Rating

- A C Corcoran Elementary-AR
- Angel Oak Elementary-G
- Burke High-E
- C C Blaney Elementary-G
- Charleston Developmental Academy-AR
- Charlestowne Academy (Elementary)-AR
- Charlestowne Academy (Middle)-AR
- Chicora Elementary-G
- E B Ellington Elementary-B
- Jane Edwards Elementary-A
- Ladson Elementary-A
- McClellanville Middle-B
- Memminger Elementary-AR
- *Murray-LaSaine Elementary-G
- Oakland Elementary-AR
- St. Andrew's Middle-AR
- St. James-Santee Elementary-B
- St. John's High-E
- W B Goodwin Elementary-G

No Report Card Data: *Laurel Hill Primary

District Absolute Rating: Average
District Growth Rating: Excellent

E - Excellent Growth Rating

G - Good Growth Rating

A - Average Growth Rating

B - Below Average Growth Rating

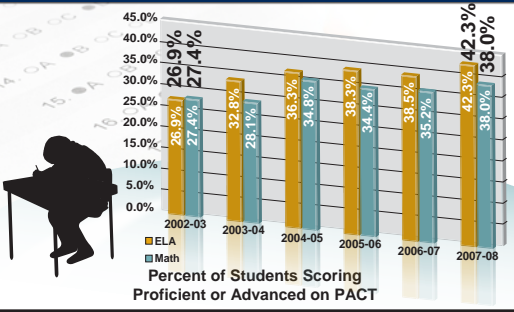
AR - At-Risk Growth Rating

* - Made Adequate Yearly Progress

**First-ever EXCELLENT
Growth Rating**

CCSD in 2007-2008: Highlights

Grade 3-8 Proficiency Highest on Record



Teacher vacancies were at an all-time low (down to 3.4 from over 100 just three years ago).

The District expanded its portfolio of school options.

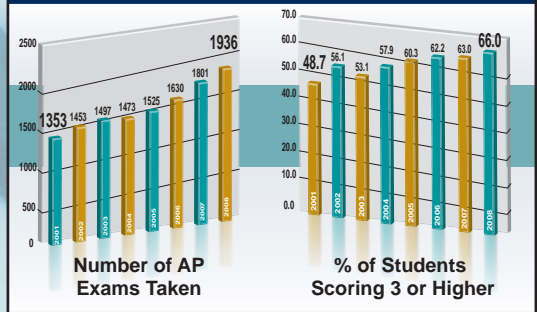
Major steps were taken to modernize every classroom and media center.

Students earned a record \$42,000,000 in scholarships, over \$6,000,000 more than last year.

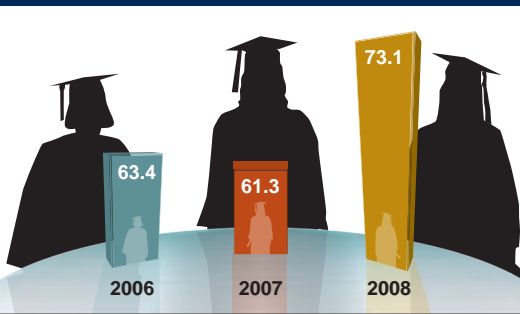
New partnerships were built in support of child health and nutrition, literacy, and arts and music education.

CCSD led the state in Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards with 49.

AP Exam Participation & Scores Increase



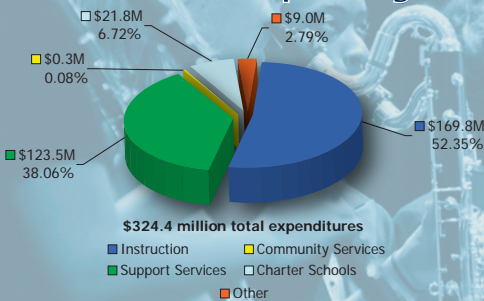
11-Point Gain in Graduation Rate



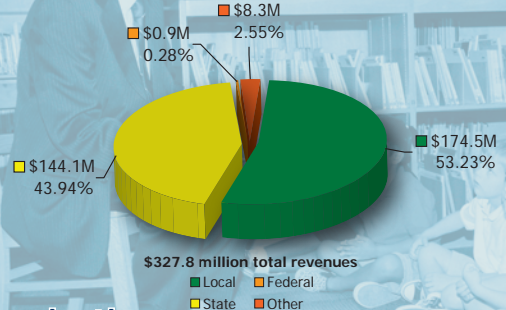
Schools are safer than ever—office referrals and serious incidents are in a downward trend, and suspensions and expulsions have been significantly reduced over the last three years.

HSAP scores went up and ACT scores were the highest in 11 years.

2007=2008 Spending



2007-2008 Revenue



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75 Calhoun Street • Charleston, SC 29401 • 843-937-6303

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