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Families Encouraged to Pre-Register for Early Childhood

Programs Available in Most Schools, District Moving Toward Goal of Universal 4-K

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Charleston, SC—Free Child Development (CD) programs are available for eligible children who are four years old on or before September 1, 2009. Parents are strongly encouraged to pre-register for the 2009-2010 school year as soon as possible to take advantage of Child Development classes. Registration runs from March 9 until May 15, 2009. Once available slots are filled, eligible children are placed on a waiting list. The waiting list is typically near 400, so parents are encouraged to pre-register as soon as possible.

The Child Development program prepares children for success in kindergarten and beyond. Research has shown the critical link between high-quality CD programs and future academic success. Program goals include increasing language skills; developing literacy skills; exploring science, art, music, movement and dramatic play; developing the concept of numbers; learning about the world; helping children participate in group activities; and much more.

There is no cost to families. Class slots are filled based on need and eligibility. Children who are pre-registered are screened according to State Department of Education requirements.

Parents must pre-register their child at their neighborhood elementary school. A legal birth certificate, certificate of immunization, proof of residence, and a social security card (if the child has one) are required for registration. "Our vision of every child graduating with the skills to succeed in college and the 21st Century workforce begins in the early years, with a good start in Early Childhood programs," said Superintendent Dr. Nancy J. McGinley. "We are working to expand these programs, and I encourage every eligible family to take advantage of them."

For more information, please visit the CCSD website at www.ccsdschools.com or call the Office of Communications at 937-6303.

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