

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **CCSD Leads State in Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards**

CHARLESTON, S.C.— In recognition of high levels of academic achievement and improvement—including progress toward closing achievement gaps between groups of students—49 Gold and Silver awards were given to 34 schools in the Charleston County School District (CCSD) this year. Last year, 26 schools won Gold and Silver awards.

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Dr. Nancy J. McGinley  
Superintendent of Schools

“Our new strategic plan, *Charleston Achieving Excellence*, is paying dividends thanks to the hard work of principals, teachers, and *everyone* involved with our schools,” said CCSD Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy McGinley. “We are so proud of our employees and community partners for helping our students make progress on the kinds of goals that make sense for everyone in our county—elevating achievement overall, closing the achievement gap, and increasing graduation rates.”

In its eighth year, the Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver awards program was created by the Education Accountability Act of 1998. The program now includes two parts - recognition for general school performance as well as progress in closing achievement gaps between groups of students. “A school that wins one of these awards is focused on kids and dedicated to their success,” said State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex. “It shows what can happen when educators have high expectations for students, and when parents and community members support those educators and students.”

Schools received general awards for overall performance based on their 2008 state report card’s absolute and growth ratings. These ratings are determined by PACT scores for elementary and middle schools. For high schools, the ratings are based on Exit Exam results, graduation rates and the percentage of students passing end-of-course tests.

Schools recognized for general performance receive an award flag, a certificate, a congratulatory letter from Dr. Rex and a portion of state funds earmarked for the program. The financial award is determined by factors including the type of award received, student enrollment, student attendance and teacher attendance. This year's awards are being reduced because of state budget cuts. Schools will receive notice of award totals in the near future.

### **Closing the Achievement Gap Awards**

Schools received closing the achievement gap awards based on academic gains made by students who fall into four subgroups— African American students, Hispanic students, students participating in federal free- or reduced-price lunch programs, and students with non-speech disabilities. The state's Education Oversight Committee set awards criteria. Schools recognized for closing achievement gaps receive an award certificate, a congratulatory letter from Dr. Rex and \$1,200 for the Gold award and \$1,000 for a Silver.

In CCSD, 17 schools won Gold for general school performance, and 11 won Silver. Nine schools earned Gold for closing the achievement gap, and 12 earned Silver. Five schools earned Gold in both categories: Baptist Hill high school, Garrett Academy of Technology, Military Magnet, Buist Academy, and School of the Arts. The chart below shows each recipient.

To learn more about the Palmetto Gold and Palmetto silver awards, and to view the statewide results, visit [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov).

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## **CCSD 2007-2008 Palmetto Gold and Silver Award Recipients**

| <b>School name</b>              | <b>General Performance</b> | <b>Achievement Gap</b> |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Baptist Hill High School        | Gold                       | Gold                   |
| Garrett Academy of Technology   | Gold                       | Gold                   |
| Burke High School               | Gold                       | Silver                 |
| Lincoln High School             |                            | Gold                   |
| Wando High School               | Gold                       | Silver                 |
| Military Magnet Academy         | Gold                       | Gold                   |
| St John's High School           | Gold                       | Silver                 |
| C C Blaney Elementary School    | Silver                     |                        |
| Chicora Elementary School       | Silver                     |                        |
| Jane Edwards Elementary School  | Silver                     |                        |
| W B Goodwin Elementary School   | Silver                     | Silver                 |
| Harbor View Elementary School   |                            | Gold                   |
| Minnie Hughes Elementary School |                            | Gold                   |

|                                       |        |        |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Lambs Elementary School               | Silver |        |
| Mt Pleasant Academy School            | Gold   |        |
| Murray-Lasaine Elementary School      | Silver | Silver |
| Pepperhill Elementary School          | Silver |        |
| Angel Oak Elementary School           | Silver |        |
| Stiles Point Elementary School        | Gold   |        |
| Stono Park Elementary School          |        | Gold   |
| Sullivan's Island Elementary School   | Gold   |        |
| Mamie Whitesides Elementary School    |        | Silver |
| Ashley River Creative Arts            | Silver | Silver |
| Buist Academy                         | Gold   | Gold   |
| Mt. Zion Elementary School            |        | Silver |
| Belle Hall Elementary School          | Gold   | Silver |
| Charleston School of the Arts         | Gold   | Gold   |
| Academic Magnet High School           | Gold   |        |
| Charlestowne Academy                  | Gold   |        |
| Charles Pinckney Elementary School    | Gold   | Silver |
| West Ashley High School               | Gold   | Silver |
| East Cooper Montessori Charter School | Silver |        |
| James Island Charter High             | Gold   | Silver |
| Orange Grove Charter School           | Silver |        |