

For Immediate Release

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District Awarded Grant for Increased Security

CHARLESTON, SC- With the support of the City of Charleston Police Department, Charleston County School District (CCSD) will be receiving \$253,340 in COPS "Secure Our Schools" grant funds through the U.S. Department of Justice to improve school security technology at five schools.

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"Ensuring safety at each of our schools and programs is our utmost priority, and this funding opportunity will better enable us to improve our level of security in and around our facilities," said CCSD Superintendent Dr. Nancy McGinley. "We are lucky to have such a strong partnership with the City of Charleston and its police department, and students and their families will continue to benefit from this collaboration."

City of Charleston Police Chief Greg Mullen echoed Superintendent McGinley's thoughts. "This new grant will strengthen our work with the district around creating and maintaining safe learning environments all across Charleston."

The grant funds will be used to purchase and install security cameras and access controls at five CCSD schools. These schools are Buist Academy, C. E. Williams Middle, James Island Middle, St. Andrews Middle, and St. Johns High.

The City of Charleston Police Department is one of 128 local law enforcement agencies and municipalities across the country who were awarded a total of \$16 million in Secure Our Schools grants. The Secure Our Schools program will provide up to 50 percent of the total cost for law enforcement agencies and schools to install metal detectors, locks, lighting, fencing, closed-circuit surveillance systems and other equipment to help deter crime.

For additional information about the COPS Secure Our Schools program, visit the COPS website at www.cops.usdoj.gov. To learn more about the grant and CCSD schools, please contact Elliot Smalley at (843) 937-6303.

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