

For Immediate Release  
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## **"TOP" Teachers Celebrated** *Program Honors Teachers for Student Growth*

CHARLESTON, S.C.—Over 100 CCSD elementary and middle school teachers are being honored today in a *Teacher Outstanding Performance* ("TOP") ceremony sponsored and funded by key business and community partners.

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Dr. Nancy J. McGinley  
Superintendent of Schools

"I applaud these teachers and the excellence they represent in the classroom," said Superintendent Dr. Nancy McGinley. "We know—based not on their years of service, certifications, or degrees, but by the achievement of the students they teach—that they are making a huge difference in the lives of children."

Last May, CCSD held its first TOP celebration, recognizing 89 elementary teachers whose students made significant progress in reading and/or math during the school year (based on a national comparison group). This year, the program expanded to include middle school math teachers and literacy teams. Privately funded cash awards are given to TOP teachers.

Teacher quality is a national policy issue, and one of the district's strategic priorities. "Teacher effectiveness is a major key to realizing our goals, because there's no intervention strategy or investment worth more than an effective teacher," said Dr. McGinley. "I know that we have effective teachers in all subjects and grade levels, and I look forward to working with our teachers to create a district-wide evaluation and compensation system that will develop, recognize and replicate great teaching district-wide."

For a fact sheet on TOP, the full list of TOP teachers, and a detailed explanation of how TOP teachers were chosen based on "Virtual Comparison Group" data, visit the [TOP page](#).

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