

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

“Clear Bag or No Bag” entry procedure going district-wide this school year

Office of Strategy and Communications

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Charleston, SC – In an effort to increase security and provide students, parents, staff, and community members with a safer experience at athletic events, Charleston County School District (CCSD) is instituting the “clear bag or no bag” entry procedure for all football and basketball games this school year. CCSD piloted this initiative last year for Wando High School football games at the District 2 Regional Stadium.

The measure goes into effect at the start of the school year, and applies to every level of South Carolina High School League (SCHSL)-sanctioned contests in the two sports (i.e. varsity, junior varsity, modified).

Implementing a “clear bag or no bag” procedure will make it quicker and easier for school staff members and on-site law enforcement officers to identify prohibited items and reduce the likelihood of contraband entering the stadium.

Every spectator is allowed to carry one clear tote bag that cannot exceed 12” x 6” x 12”. A small clutch or wallet can also be carried in to the stadium by hand or within the clear bag if it does not exceed 4.5” x 6.5”. Other small permissible items such as keys, wallets, cell phones, credit cards, and cash may be carried in a pocket or by hand. Prohibited items include weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and electronic cigarettes. Outside food and drinks, laser pointers, and non-service animals are also prohibited.

“We appreciate the effort and execution from school and CCSD staff that led to a successful pilot of this program at Wando last year,” said Michael Reidenbach, CCSD’s Director of Security and Emergency Management. “As more and more venues and school districts implement this entry procedure, we are confident our school communities will embrace this new initiative that is intended to create more enjoyable and safer experiences for fans at athletic contests.”

Other safety measures at each high school will still be in effect for athletic events. Re-entry will not be permitted for individuals who leave the stadium after receiving clearance to enter. If a child is not in high school (meaning

middle school grades and below), they must be accompanied by a responsible guardian while attending an event at the stadium.

Clear bags with athletics logos will be available on a school-by-school basis. Please contact individual high schools about cost and where to purchase the totes.

For more information, contact the Office of Strategy and Communications at (843) 937-6303.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 87 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.