

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD and College of Charleston to launch accelerated learning partnership for students

Office of Strategy and
Communication

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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*Current eighth graders zoned for West Ashley and Downtown
Charleston high schools eligible for consideration*

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is announcing a unique new partnership with the College of Charleston that will create a high school Scholars Academy program for students beginning in August 2021. This advanced studies program, open to students zoned for District 10 (West Ashley) and District 20 (Downtown Peninsula), is designed to serve students at an accelerated level and rate.

Current eighth grade students zoned for District 10 and District 20's high schools will have the opportunity to express enrollment interest during the upcoming CCSD School Choice process.

The College of Charleston (CofC) Scholars Academy will provide a rigorous course of study via honors, Advanced Placement (AP), and dual enrollment courses, and will allow enrollees to explore fields of study under the guidance of both CCSD and CofC teachers and counselors. Students could accumulate up to two years of college credits with successful completion of AP exams and dual enrollment courses- with the potential of learning on CofC's campus during their senior year.

Leaders from both institutions have been grateful for the opportunity to collaborate and offer this opportunity.

"We, at the College of Charleston, are very pleased to partner with Charleston County School District to improve educational opportunities for students on the peninsula and in West Ashley by experiencing our Scholars Academy offerings," remarked Fran Welch, Dean of CofC's School of Education, Health, and Human Performance. "Our partnership and shared vision for this initiative will provide a new avenue for students' progression to, and success in, higher education and meaningful careers."

While there is no application process for the CofC Scholars Academy, criteria including course grades, assessment data, and teacher recommendations will be considered when selecting students for 2021-22 enrollment as freshmen.

Interested District 10 and District 20 zoned students who wish to be considered for the program's first pilot cohort of 30 students should complete an interest form, available via CCSD's School Choice [website](#), beginning January 26, 2021. Several virtual information sessions for interested families will be offered with details posted on both West Ashley High and Burke High Schools' websites in the coming days.

"The College of Charleston Scholars Academy is one of our many efforts to prepare students for post-secondary readiness and success," said CCSD Superintendent Gerrita Postlewait. "We're grateful for the generous support of and partnership with the College of Charleston and are looking forward to the outstanding things our students can achieve as a result."

For more information, contact the School Choice Office at (843) 937-6582 or 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 a nationally-accredited school district that is committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents 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.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.