

**For Immediate Release**

December 10, 2020

**Contact**

Erica Taylor 843-937-6303

## Media Release

### **CCSD awarded grant for 4K literacy**

**Office of Strategy and  
Communications**

---

**Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

**Erica S. Taylor**  
Chief of Staff

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is one of six districts in the state to receive a one-year grant focused on improving children’s readiness for kindergarten. The grants were awarded a year ago but the grant-funded projects are just now ramping up due to school closures in March 2020.

The funding program, South Carolina Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program, is a one-time appropriation in the state budget and administered by the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC). The funding targets rural areas of the state. CCSD’s project focuses on District 23 (Ravenel/Hollywood/Edisto Island) and aims to improve both home and school literacy environments.

The \$85,580 grant will provide each four-year-old kindergarten (4K) student with a set of take-home books and accompanying “take and make” activities, which focus on five key early literacy practices: Read, Write, Talk, Sing, and Play. Practiced regularly, these activities will help a child be prepared to learn and read as they get older.

“The opportunity for students to grow their personal libraries and be surrounded by books both at home and school is invaluable,” said Christine Zamboki, CCSD’s Director of Early Learning. “Take-home books are a great way for families to read together and build a love for reading at a young age.”

Charleston County Public Library (CCPL) is a key partner in the project. Families are encouraged to participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and use the resources at the new St. Paul’s Hollywood library.

“This project is another example of the importance of the partnership between CCSD and CCPL and how we are working together to build a community of readers,” says Christy James, CCSD’s Library Services Coordinator.

The grant also provides teacher training and classroom devices to increase access to high-quality digital literacy resources. The South Carolina Early

Learning literacy standards for 4K students taught in the classroom need to be reinforced at home. In order to ensure that 4K students have access to high-quality digital instruction in the classroom and at home during eLearning days, the 4K classrooms are receiving 1:1 iPads to access the digital literacy program LEXIA Core 5. LEXIA has a phonemic awareness component where the instruction is individualized for each child.

This grant supports the district's Mission Critical efforts to redesign early childhood programs in Charleston County to improve educational outcomes for kindergarten and first grade students.

"Ensuring that children leave 4K programs ready to meet the expectations of kindergarten takes collaboration among the community, parents, and school," added Kim Foxworth, CCSD's Executive Director of Early Childhood School Readiness Programs.

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

###

#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD), a nationally-accredited school district, 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.