

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD offering cost-free kaleidoscope to teachers with school aged children

**Office of Strategy and
Communications**

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Charleston, SC – As part of its effort to support staff with children during the 2020-21 return to work, Charleston County School District (CCSD) is offering cost-free Kaleidoscope, (a fee-based after school and summer child care program) to teachers and staff. The program began this week and will be available on August 18 and 19, and August 31-September 4, 2020. This is in addition to the opportunity that teachers have been afforded for school-aged children to accompany them to classrooms where children must remain for the day, socially-distanced, and with masks.

To ensure everyone's safety, locations and capacity have been limited.

Charles Pinckney Elementary School, Drayton Hall Elementary School, Garret Academy Annex, James Simons Montessori School, Mamie P. Whitesides Elementary School, Murray-LaSaine Montessori School, and C.E. Williams Middle School North (formerly West Ashley Middle School) are the facilities serving as Kaleidoscope locations.

Strict safety protocols have been put into place and include the following:

- Curbside drop-off and pick-up procedures
- Only students of CCSD employees and some CCSD staff are allowed into the school building's interior
- Group sizes are being limited to no more than 10 students and one counselor
- Staff is utilizing social distancing at all times

"We are glad to help our teachers and staff during this difficult time," said Jason Sakran, Director of Expanded Learning. "One of the most important needs for our families right now is safe, high-quality child care and I hope we can continue to offer our services as the school year begins. My staff are rock stars. Give us a challenge, and we will meet it."

According to Sakran, Kaleidoscope will continually update health and safety procedures based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Environmental Control.

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 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.