

**For Immediate Release**  
August 28, 2020

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## Media Release

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

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### **Lucy Beckham High school opens doors to ninth and tenth graders**

**Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce that the newly-constructed Lucy Beckham High School will open its doors to students for the 2020-2021 school year.

The project was funded by a "Yes" vote of the Charleston Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax Referendum of 2014.

The new state-of-the-art building will accommodate 1,500 students in grades 9-12. The three story facility is situated on 44.1 acres and was constructed on the site of the former Wando High School located at the intersection of Mathis Ferry Road and Whipple Road in Mount Pleasant. The building totals 245,000 square feet.

"The new school sits on the site of the old Wando campus," said Robert Sturman CCSD's Interim Director of Capital Programs. "It will open to 9th and 10th grade students and phase into expanding into 11th and 12th, relieving overcrowding at neighboring Wando High School. Thanks to the Charleston County residents, students will enjoy a new facility of learning to

include new Career Technology Education labs, general classrooms, a cutting-edge auditorium, and a state of the art kitchen”

The project budget was \$103.7 million.

The new high school also contains science labs, a performing arts wing, cafeteria, main gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, media center, and administration spaces. The site will also include a competition track and field, two practice fields, as well as parking for staff and students, and separate parent and bus drop-offs.

“We are so excited to finally be opening Lucy Garrett Beckham High School for our students, staff, families and community,” said Principal Anna Dassing. “It has been an honor to bring Ms. Beckham’s vision to fruition and we look forward to sharing our state of the art facility and bold and innovative practices with everyone. We have an amazing team full of enthusiastic, creative educators and support staff that want nothing more than to make every student’s Beckham experience the best ever. We know that the 2020-2021 will be full of new experiences and continued challenges but we look forward to working through them with our Beckham Family.”

The construction team worked in tandem with local and state agencies to open the school on time and within the approved budget.

“COVID-19 has forced the teams building our new schools to overcome some unique challenges,” said Sturman. “It has been a race to get all of the new school buildings online before the students return for the new school year, which was strategically managed by Cumming (the District’s construction management firm). The internal and external partnerships between the design team, general contractors, subcontractors, CCSD staff, and others were the keys to a successful project.”

In addition to the construction management team, Cumming, the architect was McMillan Pazdan Smith, and the general contractor was Contract Construction. The Project Manager was Harold Lee and the Site Manager was Joe Edmonds.

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.