

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Top 5 Finalists for 2019 Teacher of the Year Announced**

**Charleston, SC** – Becoming a Teacher of the Year (TOY) at a school is a significant honor. So, to be named a Charleston County School District (CCSD) TOY finalist is a huge deal.

**Office of Strategy and  
Communications**

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

**Erica Taylor**  
Chief of Staff

On Thursday, March 7, 2019 the district's current TOY, Stephanie Haecherl, (Whitesides Elementary School) and District officials surprised the 2019 Top 5 finalists for CCSD Teacher of the Year.

Live announcements and updates were provided on the District's social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter (@CCSDConnects).

Photos from the day can also be found there.

Each finalist had the opportunity to check out a BMW from Rick Hendrick BMW of Charleston that the District Teacher of the Year will receive at the TOY Celebration, which is scheduled for May 9, 2019. Congratulations to each of our finalists!

### **Top 5**



**Erin Bua** – Guidance Counselor at James B. Edwards Elementary School



**Jason Costner** – Math teacher at Laing Middle School



**Melissa Reese** - Primary Montessori teacher at Murray-LaSaine Elementary



**Shantia Wilder** – Child Development teacher at Chicora Elementary School



**Jayuntay Williams** - Math teacher at West Ashley Middle Advanced Studies Magnet

Special thanks to Rick Hendrick BMW of Charleston and The Charleston RiverDogs for their partnership with CCSD in recognizing and rewarding our teacher leaders through the Teacher of the Year process.

To see photos of the announcements, visit [ccsdschools.com](https://ccsdschools.com).

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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 that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 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.