



Community and Family Engagement Report

2023-2024 School Year

Guiding Principles of School Acceleration



Exceptional People



Rigorous Content



Community Partnership



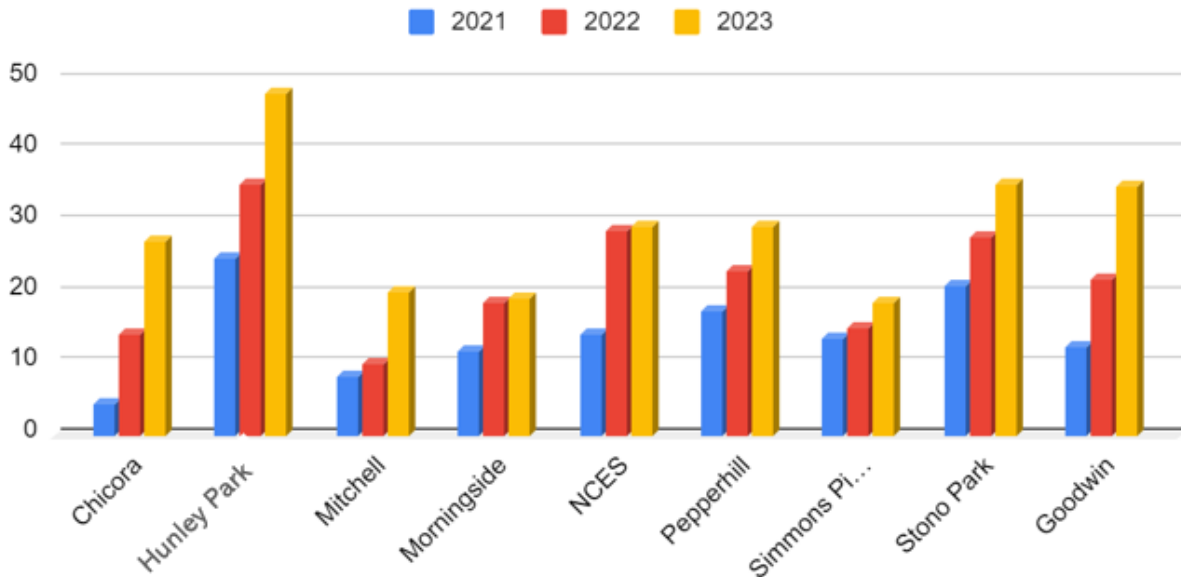
School Transformation

The Acceleration and Transformation Schools initiative at Charleston County Public Schools is committed to ensuring family and community voices are present and influential in the work to provide more significant support and care for the district's most vulnerable schools. As a part of this commitment, the Acceleration Schools team embarked on a series of Parent and Community Meetings focused on engaging diverse stakeholders and leaders from all over the county to improve literacy across our schools. These meetings brought together parents, family members, teachers, school leaders, and various community representatives to watch The Right to Read documentary and discuss the importance of literacy in our students' lives and how to support students with reading at home.

Three meetings were held on November 1st, 2023, at Burke High School, November 9th, 2023, at Pepperhill Elementary, and November 14th, 2023 at North Charleston Elementary. These meetings were marketed widely around the Charleston County area and held later in the evening to encourage attendance. They offered parents and families several benefits, including a hot dinner, snacks, and on-site childcare.

This meeting series adopted an interactive structure focused on facilitating discussion. All attendees were seated in small groups. The evenings opened with an introduction to the film and literacy data specific to Charleston County and Acceleration Schools. After each video clip, each group was given time to discuss their thoughts, ideas, and specific questions. After the videos were shared, leadership shared a Call to Action and provided parents with specific resources to take home and work on with their children.

CCSD A.S. Schools SC Ready Proficiency in ELA 2021-2023



CCSD A.S. Schools SC Ready Proficiency in ELA 2021-2023

After each discussion, participants were asked to complete a survey, and responses were overwhelmingly positive. More than 90% of respondents said watching the documentary was worthwhile. More than 90% of respondents felt extremely capable of supporting their children with reading at home. More than 85% said their child's teacher shares ways to help with reading at home.

Thank you to the Acceleration Schools Team, District Instructional Specialists Caley Jones and Jayuntay Williams, Administrative Assistant Natoshia Green, Kalediscope, the CCSD Communications Office, Director Andrew Pruitt, and Videographer Mr. Michael Rabon, the CCSD Operations team, D4 Family and Community Manager, Mrs. Tyra Johnson, and all Acceleration Schools Principals, Assistant Principals, Parent Advocates, and teachers. Thanks also to the CCSD offices of Translation Services, MLL, Student Support Services, Intercultural Development, and Facilities for making these events possible.

Acceleration & Transformation Schools Parent & Community Meetings

Join us for a night to hear about the importance of early literacy and "the science of reading"

"The Time is HERE, and the Time is Now!"

All are welcome!
Childcare for K-5 students will be provided.

CCSD Vision 2027: By June 2027, All Students will Read on Grade Level by FIFTH Grade - 2027 Fifth Grade Cohort -

Research shows that children who start behind in reading often stay behind. Children not reading on grade level by 3rd grade are four times less likely to graduate high school. When a child does not learn to read, their chances of incarceration and homelessness increase exponentially. IT'S TIME FOR ACTION! Come out and join us for an evening of discussion and developing a plan to ensure that ALL CCSD students are reading on grade level by the time they leave elementary school!

Acceleration Schools

- MORNINGSIDE MIDDLE
- STONO PARK ELEMENTARY
- NORTH CHARLESTON ELEMENTARY
- HUNLEY PARK ELEMENTARY
- MITCHELL ELEMENTARY
- CHICOORA ELEMENTARY
- W. B. GOODWIN ELEMENTARY
- MARY FORD ELEMENTARY
- PEPPERHILL ELEMENTARY
- BURKE HIGH SCHOOL
- SIMMONS-PINCKNEY MIDDLE

Transformation Schools

- Pinehurst Elementary
- Flavson Elementary
- Jac Cochran Elementary
- Sanders Clyde Elementary
- North Charleston Creative Arts

Event Schedule:

- Burke High School**
Wednesday, November 1st, 2023
- Pepperhill Elementary School**
Thursday, November 9th, 2023
- North Charleston Elementary School**
Tuesday, November 14th, 2023

*All events are scheduled from 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM

WE WILL EXCEL!

SCAN ME

Reuniones de Padres y Comunidad de Acceleration y Transformation Schools

Únase a nosotros para una noche sobre la importancia del alfabetismo temprano y "las ciencias de la lectura"

"The Time is HERE, and the Time is Now!"

¡Todos son bienvenidos!
Habrá servicio de guardería para los alumnos de K-5

Visión CCSD de 2027: Antes del junio de 2027, todos los alumnos leerán a nivel de grado para quinto grado - 2027 Fifth Grade Cohort -

Las investigaciones muestran que muchas veces los alumnos que comienzan detrás del nivel de grado en la lectura, a menudo se quedan atrás. Los niños que no están leyendo a nivel de grado para el tercer grado tienen cuatro veces menos probabilidades de graduarse de la escuela secundaria. Cuando un niño no aprende a leer, sus posibilidades de encarcelamiento y falta de vivienda aumentan exponencialmente. ¡ES HORA DE LA ACCIÓN! ¡Venga y únase a nosotros para una noche de discusión y desarrollo de un plan para asegurar que TODOS los alumnos CCSD estén leyendo a nivel de grado para el momento en que salgan de la escuela primaria!

Acceleration Schools

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- BURKE HIGH SCHOOL
- SIMMONS-PINCKNEY MIDDLE

Transformation Schools

- Pinehurst Elementary
- Flavson Elementary
- Jac Cochran Elementary
- Sanders Clyde Elementary
- North Charleston Creative Arts

Event Schedule:

- Burke High School**
miércoles, 1 de noviembre de 2023
- Pepperhill Elementary School**
jueves, 9 de noviembre de 2023
- North Charleston Elementary School**
martes, 14 de noviembre de 2023

*Todos los eventos son programados de 6:00 - 7:30 PM
La cena se servirá a las 5:30 PM

WE WILL EXCEL!

SCAN ME

Esperamos verte en una de las reuniones ofrecidas, y si tiene alguna pregunta por favor comuníquese con Sra. Nanshia Green al (843) 937-6612

¡VAMOS A SOBRESALIR!

PARTICIPANT OVERVIEW

Burke High School - November 1st, 2023, 6-7:30pm

Sixty-eight (68) people attended, including School Board Chair Pam McKinney, Associate Superintendent of Acceleration Schools Jacqueline Haynes, Elementary Learning Community Executive Director Quenetta White, Director of Acceleration Schools Colleen Carr, Burke High School Executive Principal Cheryl Swinton, Simmons Pinckney Middle School Principal Stephanie Spann, Julian Mitchell Math and Science Elementary Principal, Dr. Amber Sainz, Sanders Clyde Elementary Principal, Dr. Janice Malone, Executive Director of School Choice, Robin Jones, Education Dynamics Consultant, Dr. Dennis Muhammad, D20 Management Consultant, Dr. Barbara Dilligard.

The breakdown of attendees who **completed** surveys is represented in the chart below:

CCSD Parent or Family Member	20	48%
Teacher or Staff member of CCSD	7	17%
Community Member	15	36%

Pepperhill Elementary - November 9th, 2023, 6-7:30pm

42 (forty-two) people attended, including Elementary Learning Community Executive Director Quenetta White, Director of Acceleration Schools Colleen Carr, Pepperhill Elementary School Principal Lebanaye Smalls, Hunley Park Elementary School Principal Dr. Katchia Gethers, and W.B. Goodwin Elementary Principal Natasha Jones.

The breakdown of attendees who **completed** surveys is represented in the chart below:

CCSD Parent or Family Member	12	50%
CCSD Employee	9	38%
Community Member	3	13%

North Charleston Elementary - November 14th, 2023, 6-7:30pm

Thirty (30) people attended, including Associate Superintendent of Acceleration Schools Jacqueline Haynes, Director of Acceleration Schools Colleen Carr, Literacy Director Susan Rawlings, Assistant Director of Gifted and Talented Elizabeth Uptegrove, Project Prevent Program Officer Tasha Joyner, Morningside Middle School Interim Principal George White, North Charleston Elementary Principal Melissa Brubaker, and Chicora Elementary Principal Monica Smalls.

The breakdown for attendees that **completed** surveys are represented in the chart below:

CCSD Parent or Family Member	6	25%
CCSD Employee	17	71%
Community Member	1	4%

Feedback

After an initial welcome, district leadership presented a school turnaround report before parents and staff watched clips from the film *The Right to Read*. The event ended with a call to action for parents to bring home tools they learned from the film. After this session, some main takeaways from the surveys were:

- 91% of respondents said watching the documentary was a worthwhile experience.
- 45% would be interested, and 33% would maybe be interested in a Call to Action Meeting to organize ways to address literacy.
- 86% of respondents said their child's teacher shares ways to help reading at home
- 93% rated 5/5 on their capability to support their child with reading at home

Survey Overview

Over 140 people attended our Acceleration Schools Family and Community Meetings, with representation from schools, neighborhoods, and institutions from all over Charleston County. After each meeting, participants were asked to take a survey about their experience and takeaways from the meeting, and we received 77 survey responses.

We are proud to report that 91% of all respondents indicated that watching the documentary was a worthwhile experience, and 93% gave the highest score for their ability to support their child with reading at home.

The following is a breakdown of this feedback:

Burke High School - November 1st, 2023, 6-7:30pm

Would you be interested in attending a Call to Action Meeting to organize ways to address literacy?	Percent
Yes	57%
Maybe	20%
No	9%
No Response	6%

Was watching this documentary a worthwhile experience?	Percent
Yes	100%
No Response	0%

Do you feel capable of supporting your child with reading at home?	Percent
1 Not Capable	0%
2	0%
3	3%
4	6%
5 Extremely Capable	83%

No Response	9%
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How often do you read to your child for at least 15 minutes daily?	Percent
Everyday	20%
5-6 times per week	6%
3-4 times per week	20%
1-2 times per week	29%
Never	6%
No Response	20%

Does your child's teacher share ways to help your students with their reading performance at home?	Percent
Yes	54%
Sometimes	6%
No	17%
No Response	23%

Check all that you would be interested in participating in:	Count
Literacy or Math Workshops at your student's school	16
Literacy or Math Family Engagement Nights that you attend with your child at your student's school	18
Take-home packets with videos from Literacy or Math Specialists on using learning manipulatives at home with your students.	15

Parent University Classes offer both parenting skills & life skills on a Saturday, averaging 4 hours long.	16
Community Engagement Meetings with Call-to-Action Steps	5

Pepperhill Elementary - November 9th, 2023, 6-7:30 pm

Would you be interested in attending a Call to Action Meeting to organize ways to address literacy?	Percent
Yes	64%
Maybe	27%
No	0%
No Response	9%

Was watching this documentary a worthwhile experience?	Percent
Yes	77%
No Response	23%

Do you feel capable of supporting your child with reading at home?	Percent
1 Not Capable	5%
2	9%
3	0%
4	0%
5 Extremely Capable	64%
No Response	23%

How often do you read to your child for at least 15 minutes daily?	Percent
Everyday	14%
5-6 times per week	5%
3-4 times per week	18%
1-2 times per week	9%
Never	5%
No Response	50%

Does your child's teacher share ways to help your students with their reading performance at home?	Percent
Yes	50%
Sometimes	0%
No	0%
No Response	50%

Check all that you would be interested in participating in:	Count
Literacy or Math Workshops at your student's school	8
Literacy or Math Family Engagement Nights that you attend with your child at your student's school	8
Take-home packets with videos from Literacy or Math Specialists on using learning manipulatives at home with your students.	6

Parent University Classes offer both parenting skills & life skills on a Saturday, averaging 4 hours long.	5
Community Engagement Meetings with Call-to-Action Steps	8

North Charleston Elementary - November 14th, 6-7:30pm

Would you be interested in attending a Call to Action Meeting to organize ways to address literacy?	Percent
Yes	90%
Maybe	5%
No	0%
No Response	5%

Was watching this documentary a worthwhile experience?	Percent
Yes	95%
No Response	5%

Do you feel capable of supporting your child with reading at home?	Percent
1 Not Capable	0%
2	0%
3	10%
4	0%
5 Extremely Capable	60%
No Response	30%

How often do you read to your child for at least 15 minutes daily?	Percent
Everyday	20%
5-6 times per week	25%
3-4 times per week	5%
1-2 times per week	15%
Never	0%
No Response	35%

Does your child's teacher share ways to help your students with their reading performance at home?	Percent
Yes	60%
Sometimes	0%
No	5%
No Response	35%

Check all that you would be interested in participating in:	Count
Literacy or Math Workshops at your student's school	13
Literacy or Math Family Engagement Nights that you attend with your child at your student's school	12
Take-home packets with videos from Literacy or Math Specialists on using learning manipulatives at home with your students.	11

Parent University Classes offer both parenting skills & life skills on a Saturday, averaging 4 hours long.	7
Community Engagement Meetings with Call-to-Action Steps	13

Question #8

How can parents/guardians, teachers, school administrators, and community organizations work together to address the literacy crisis?

- Explicit phonics instruction.
- Better promotion for libraries and for a joy of reading
- Consistent communication
- Have more events and activities that support literacy
- Schools promoting ways parents can help at home having take home resources to borrow
- Identify, plan, follow up, accountability, track data across grade levels, be consistent across the district, school wide initiative to address phonics and phonemic awareness gap
- Teach parents how to teach their child
- Provide incentives for parents to hear this session and see the videos, the videos were fantastic
- Clear communication with all stakeholders - sometimes teachers are not as direct and honest about how students are doing
- "Each one teach one each one reach one"
- Research what strategies to introduce to parents so they can get information that may be eye opening and insightful
- Have meetings throughout the week, zoom meetings
- Help parents understand the EL curriculum and the amazing benefits it has, potentially by participate in a lesson
- Be aware of the crisis and work together to close the gap. All community members need to be involved
- Involve churches also
- Parents can show schools they care by answering calls/texts/emails/etc., showing up to events
- Let's not just talk about it, but come together, build relationships between parents and school, and truly engage the community
- make classes more student-friendly, don't teach the curriculum-teach the students
- continue to have more genuine meetings like this one to make the community more comfortable with coming together to help and make a difference
- Help children by realizing we need patience that is not interrupted. ESL

- Become more accountable and responsible
- Understand what the issues are and use proven methods to address them
- After-school reading rooms, potentially with community organization volunteers, and literacy workshops
- More communication
- School board members need to buy into this program
- Address the root causes will be a start
- Address many of the barriers students face that are inhibiting instruction in the classroom- mental health, trauma, etc
- The curriculum seems to be set up for kids average and below. What happens to kids above average? As a community how do we together create a challenging curriculum for them
- Continuous evaluations of programs and data to determine how effective curriculums are
- Work together and share throughout the communities
- More activities like this at various locations and more schools
- Continue showing parents that you want them to be part of their child's education, having those hard talks with parents and let them know what needs to happen
- Meet each person where they are without judgment. Many parents don't have the knowledge/resources or time.
- Offer wrap around services to support the family's needs
- Continue efforts to bring parents into the school, parent info or how to time, contact parents consistently with info on how to help students -teachers, admin, coaches, parent advocate, etc
- Have extra activities for home activities, activities with social networks, activities with interests for children
- Continue PD for teachers EL, provide literacy training for parents who are interested
- We can collaborate to develop a balanced research and evidence based reading program that will help our scholars learn best
- Fight for curriculum like EL to stay
- Parent can help children with home reading activities, follow student improvement with teachers, reduce device using at home
- Parents getting involved at school
- Parents and teachers keep each other informed about things going on with the child so they can address struggle areas before it's too late

Question #9

Please share any other ideas you want to see within your student's school, district-wide, or community.

- Better promotion of public libraries
- Teachers being mindful of children's feelings to better communicate with them
- After school tutoring available by trained specialists
- Parental engagement, such as conferences every 9 weeks, and help educate parents on how to support at home
- District data review
- Teach teachers how to teach reading by addressing the phonemic awareness with mandated LETRS training
- Parents are required to be involved in their children's academic development.
- Hold students more accountable
- Create a more effective progressive discipline plan.
- Keep EL in place
- NCES is a great school. I'm elated that my students attend here
- School's population and pride back, a want from the students to want to learn
- No retaliation to students if parents speak up
- Community engagement
- Schools focus entirely too much on the standardized tests. We need to put that energy into literacy
- More engagement with Reading Partners of SC
- Justice and liberty for all children
- Involve parents
- Thank you teachers
- Formal surveys are sent home to parents to support or critique the curriculum to hold the school board accountable to support what the educators and parents want by proving efficacy.
- More events and programs like this
- More challenging curriculum for above average children
- Year-round school
- Teach and translate books in English in Spanish or that teach homework in Spanish for Hispanic children
- More digital literacy, resources, and volunteering options for families, especially for our MIL and our NES students
- Ask the childrens input and ideas
- Have another meeting on the days that students are out of school. Maybe have a program in the morning
- Send home labels for younger kids, host an education game show event, some kids like competitions
- Free books, tutor sessions, and tablets for the school year