



**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **ECHS earns national honor as AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction**

Early College High School

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

**Karolyn Belcher**  
Chief Academic Officer

**Joseph Williams, Ed.D.**  
Associate Superintendent  
Secondary Learning Community

**Vanessa Denney**  
Principal

**Charleston, SC** – Staff members at Charleston County School District’s Early College High School (ECHS) are proud to announce they have earned the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Schoolwide Site of Distinction award this year, an honor given to a select few AVID schools for their extensive commitment to providing students with ample college preparation and supportive resources.

ECHS is one of just 344 of the 4,636 eligible secondary schools nationwide to receive this honor this year.

Schoolwide Site of Distinction is the highest rating that a school can achieve on the AVID certification rating scale and demonstrates schools’ outstanding commitment to their students by ensuring equity and opportunity for all, providing rigorous academic opportunities and implementing superb instructional practices to ensure success for first-generation college students.

ECHS has been an AVID campus since opening in the 2017-2018 school year. Eighty-four percent of the staff members at ECHS are AVID-trained, contributing to the fact that 100 percent of all current ECHS students are on track to graduate in four years. Of the current 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, 92 percent have completed at least one college-level course (freshmen are not eligible for enrollment in those classes). Ninety-one percent of the senior class have earned at least 20 college credits, and 49 percent of the Class of 2021 will graduate high school with a full associate’s degree.

Scholars at ECHS have the opportunity to earn an associate’s degree with Trident Technical College (the school is located on TTC’s Palmer Campus in downtown Charleston) along with their high school diploma by the time they graduate.

“Early College is proud to have earned this distinction after just three years. We believe in the AVID principles and are honored to share them daily with our students,” Principal Vanessa Denney said. “We know that the standards-based instruction that students receive in their AVID Elective class coupled

with the AVID principles of Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading employed in all ECHS classes is key to our students' success now and in their future endeavors.”

AVID is the driving force behind every class offered through ECHS. Each student is enrolled in an AVID elective class every year, and staff members are dedicated to teaching students the tools they need to be successful in every class, whether a high school or college-level course.

To learn more about AVID at ECHS, please click on this [link](#). For additional information, contact Vanessa Denney at (843) 720-5701.

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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.