

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

CCSD Earns Spot on 2017 AP District Honor Roll

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Communications

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Charleston, SC — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce its selection to the College Board's 8th Annual AP (Advanced Placement) District Honor Roll. This is the second time in five years CCSD has received this honor; 2013 was the last year the District made this list.

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with initiatives and strategies to see how they can expand access and improve student performance at the same time.

According to the College Board, the District Honor Roll is not a roster of higher performing districts, but is a roster of districts that are simultaneously expanding opportunity and improving performance.

In 2017, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the world received AP scores for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the admissions process. Inclusion in the 8th Annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2015 to 2017, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture. The following criteria were used:

- Increased access to AP courses by at least 4% in large districts, 6% in medium district, and 11% in small districts.
- Increased or maintained the percentage of exams taken by African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students.
- Improved performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2017 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2015, unless the division has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

CCSD met each of the three criteria used to qualify in the medium districts level (student population between 8,000 and 50,000) for this recognition. First, access to AP coursework in Charleston County schools has increased by 8% annually since 2015; the number of students taking one or more AP exams increased from 2,343 students in 2015 to 2,739 in 2017. Secondly, the percentage of AP students who are African-American, Hispanic/Latino, or American Indian/Alaska Native was maintained at about 18% from 2015 to 2017. Finally, at the same time that access increased, so did the performance of students. The percentage of AP students who scored 3 or higher (out of a possible 5) on at least one exam increased from 72% in 2015 to 74% in 2017.

"This accomplishment highlights the dedication our students are making to their course work, and the ability of our teachers to create environments that prepare our scholars for this kind of rigor," explained Cynthia Ambrose, CCSD Deputy Superintendent of Learning Services. "This honor should be celebrated by all of our staff members, and is a sign of the positive direction our district is going."

Only three school districts in South Carolina made the 2017 AP District Honor Roll; Fort Mill School District – York 4 and the Diocese of Charleston Education Office join CCSD on this year's list.

"Congratulations to all the educators and administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to participate and succeed in AP," said Trevor Packer, College Board's head of AP and Instruction. "These educators and administrators are fostering a culture in their schools and classrooms that allows students to face new challenges and build the confidence to succeed."

National data from 2017 show that among American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students with a high degree of readiness for AP, only about half are participating. The first step to getting more of these students to participate is to give them access. Courses must be made available, gatekeeping must stop, and doors must be equitably opened. CCSD is committed to expanding the availability of AP courses among prepared and motivated students of all backgrounds.

For more about this honor for CCSD, 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 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.