

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **FFVP Continues to Provide Healthy Choices for CCSD Students**

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

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**Charleston, SC** — Regardless of where students come from, they will have healthy, free snacks during the school day thanks to the USDA's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). In Charleston County School District (CCSD), 21 Title I elementary schools applied to participate in and were selected for the program for the 2017-18 school year. Each school receives \$50 per student to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmers and distributors throughout the year. The schools will receive nearly \$420,000 combined this year through the grant-funded program.

The list of CCSD schools participating in the FFVP in 2017-18 are the following:

A. C. Corcoran Elementary School
Charleston Development Academy
Charleston Progressive Academy
Chicora Elementary School
E. B. Ellington Elementary School
Edith L. Frierson Elementary School
Edmund A. Burns Elementary School
Julian Mitchell Elementary School
Mary Ford Elementary School
Matilda F. Dunston Primary School
Memminger Elementary School
Midland Park Primary School
Minnie Hughes Elementary School
Mt. Zion Elementary School
North Charleston Elementary School
Pepperhill Elementary School
Pinehurst Elementary School
Sanders-Clyde Creative Arts School

St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School
Stono Park Elementary
W.B. Goodwin Elementary School

Now in its tenth year, the FFVP helps schools create healthier environments by providing healthy food choices and expanding the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables children experience and consume. The program also plays an important role in combating childhood obesity.

"Raising students' awareness of fresh fruits and vegetables improves the overall health of our students," said Walter Campbell, CCSD Executive Director of Nutrition Services.

"Every day, students receive a 2-4 ounce snack of fruit or vegetables," explained Mary Ford Elementary School nurse, Charlene Barbot. "We use coolers on wheels and ice packs to deliver the fresh fruits and veggies to the classrooms. We provide a variety in order to introduce new and exciting tastes and textures. Some examples are star fruit, nectarines, blueberries, celery, and jicama. Odessa Grant, our school cafeteria manager, and her staff coordinate the delivery each day. We also help the students learn about nutritional value and the benefits fruit and vegetables provide for our bodies."

Edith L. Frierson Elementary School has participated in the FFVP for the past three years.

"The students' reactions [when they try new fruits and vegetables] are priceless," noted Principal Deborah Fickling. "It's eye-opening to see how they enjoy being introduced to new foods."

For more information about FFVP, contact Diane Gillie from the South Carolina Department of Education Office of Health & Nutrition, at (803) 734-8193 or [dgillie@ed.sc.gov](mailto:dgillie@ed.sc.gov). If you are interested in how the grants will be applied at CCSD schools, please contact CCSD's 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.