



For Immediate Release

June 7, 2018

Contact:

Vanessa Denney 843-720-5701

Media Release

CCSD Early College High School to Receive Nearly \$600,000 for Educational Support

Early College High School

Gerrita Postlewait, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Cynthia Ambrose
Deputy Superintendent of
Learning Services

Kim Wilson
Executive Director, Secondary
Learning Community

Vanessa Denney
Program Director

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Early College High School (ECHS) recently finished its first year of operation, providing scholars with an inside track to earning an associate's degree with Trident Technical College (TTC), along with their high school diploma. As ECHS expands to serve grades 9-10 next school year, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) is providing additional financial resources to make sure the students have the tools necessary for success.

ECHS is receiving almost \$600,000 total in grant funding over the next four years to be used for preparing college- and career-ready graduates.

"The Education and Economic Development Act Grant award confirms that CCSD's vision for providing access to an Early College model and fostering students' work towards an Associate Degree is one that the SCDE also believes in," stated ECHS Program Director Vanessa Denney. "The grant will allow us to provide targeted and timely interventions and experiences with enhanced support for students as they strive to complete their Associate Degree and high school education simultaneously."

Many of the students at ECHS can feel disconnected from the traditional school environment, since they attend classes at TTC's Palmer Campus in downtown Charleston. This grant will provide the following opportunities that can help the scholar overcome those obstacles:

- An additional AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) teacher
- Additional AVID training for staff
- Summer sessions for students dedicated to college/career experiences and academic achievement

"AVID is the underpinning of the Early College model," added Denney. "Through AVID, students are provided with an adult who monitors their progress, teaches them the skills needed to be successful as students and the in the world, and works with them to ensure they are accessing the resources needed for high achievement. "Their AVID teacher becomes their 'school parent' and ensures that our students will leave ECHS ready to tackle the rewards and challenges of their post-secondary careers."

The funding will support 25 sophomores in the 2018-2019 school year; that group will be supported through their senior year. Targeting students as they enter their second year of high school allows the program to determine where students need the greatest amount of help as they begin dual-credit coursework. This will be a continual process, meaning ECHS will identify 25 students from each class (i.e. Class of 2022, Class of 2023) who could benefit from these services during their final three years at the school.

For more information about this grant and how it will be used at ECHS, contact Vanessa Denney at (843) 720-5701.

###

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.