



Charleston County School of  
the Arts

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

### **Students in District's Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program to Receive "Bed Shaker" Alarm**

**North Charleston, SC** – Charleston County School District's (CCSD) Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, which is housed at Charleston County School of the Arts (SOA), provides students with [many opportunities and supports](#). Staff members also work hard to give students what they need outside the classroom walls.

One of the teaching assistants and interpreters in the program, Robbi Amick, was researching services available for every scholar in order to assist them in communicating outside of school. While she was looking for cards that explain their need for an interpreter to others, Amick discovered a crucial service that Fire Safe SC provides: Deaf/Hard of Hearing Smoke Alarms, also known as "bed shakers." They notify individuals of a possible life-threatening fire emergency in their home. The device is attached to the fire alarm in the house and when the smoke detector goes off, they shake the bed of the deaf/hard of hearing person in order to wake them up.

The devices are free to all qualified applicants and can be installed at no cost by local fire departments.

Amick connected with Fire Safe SC's curriculum coordinator, Anthony Scoggin, and in turn, he coordinated with the seven fire districts across the area that serve the students in the program to install the specialized fire alarms in each of the students' homes.

"The mission of Fire Safe SC is to unite fire service organizations to engage influential community stakeholders," stated Scoggin. "Together, we will support local fire departments to serve their citizens through strategic community risk reduction programs."

This coming Monday, May 21, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., Scoggin and representatives from seven area fire districts will gather at SOA for a "bed shaker" training for the students and their parents. After the meeting (and a pizza party!), the Charleston Fire Department will travel to the home of 7<sup>th</sup> grader SOA deaf student, Arriona Conklin, to install the first bed shaker alarm.

“We hope by publicizing this event, more deaf citizens will reach out to Fire Safe SC to see if they qualify for this service,” said Amick. “I know everyone in our program, students and staff members, are grateful for this organization and the fire departments that are helping install this potentially life-saving device.”

For more information about this event, or the installation of the fire alarms at these students’ homes, please contact SOA’s Publicity Representative, Beth Webb Hart, at (843) 529-4990 or [elizabeth\\_hart@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:elizabeth_hart@charleston.k12.sc.us). You can also visit Fire Safe SC’s [website](#) to learn about the device and who is eligible for this free service.

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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.