

**For Immediate Release**

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# Media Release

## **Board of Trustees Approves Teacher Salary Increase in FY20 Budget**

**Charleston, SC** – The Charleston County School (CCSD) Board of Trustees approved a balanced FY20 General Fund budget for the 2019-2020 school year tonight totaling \$537,015,665.

Office of Strategy and  
Communications

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

**Erica Taylor**  
Chief of Staff

**Highlights**

- CCSD will use \$1.1 million of Fund Balance reserves to fund the expansion of Early College High School for its third year of operation.
- The District will use \$2.5 million of Fund Balance reserves to fund implementation of the second year of the three-year phase in plan to raise starting pay to \$40,000. The minimum starting salary for new teachers in FY20 will be \$38,897.
- A four percent salary increase for all teachers will be implemented, plus an average 1.9 percent step-increase.
- A 1.9 percent salary increase will be implemented for eligible full-time staff that are not teachers, plus an average 1.9 percent step increase.
- A Sustainability Fund in the amount of \$745,163 will be established to support former State Priority Schools that lost state funds when they improved academically.
- A \$5 million reserve is included in the proposed budget to fund initiatives that will be adopted by the Board on June 24, 2019. These initiatives will be generated through a combination of suggestions from the Mission Critical Teams, staff recommended changes and recommendations made by AdvancEd, the Clemson Inclusion and Equity Report and the Charleston Shared Future Scenarios.

As part of the budget, the board approved a millage increase of 3.48 mills, which will result in additional local revenue of \$8.7 million.

The general fund covers operation expenses of the school district such as teacher salaries, student transportation, curriculum, professional training/development for teachers, janitorial services, etc. Under current state law, local taxes for school districts' general fund are not levied on owner-occupied homes. To cover expenses, taxes are levied on local businesses, vehicles, and rental properties.

The complete budget can be found [here](#). For more information on the FY20 Budget, please contact the Office of Strategy and Communication 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 spanning 1,300 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.