



District-wide improvements

- Student achievement in Beaufort County continues to improve by every indicator.
- Beaufort County School District earned a “Good” rating on its state report card and a “B” on its federal report card. Ninety-three percent of the district’s schools met the federal standard.
- The district’s on-time high school graduation rate – the percentage of students who earn a diploma “on time” in four years – has improved for five consecutive years.
- Ninety percent of the district’s 11th-graders scored high enough on the first statewide administration of WorkKeys exams to qualify for certificates that they can use to apply for jobs anywhere in the nation. BCSD students outperformed their peers from most other districts.
- The district has created “schools of choice” in all buildings, meaning that parents can apply to send their children to any academic program at any school in district, regardless of where they live.
- The Connect2Learn program has put a mobile computer in the hands of every student in grades K-12.
- In 2015 the district earned a renewal of its national accreditation from AdvancED, a nonprofit organization that reviews school systems around the world. The AdvancED review places BCSD in the Top 10 among South Carolina schools and the Top 10 in the AdvancED network, which includes international rankings. In addition, AdvancED awarded specialized STEM certification to all four district schools that applied.
- Graduating seniors in the Class of 2016 earned \$30.4 million in college scholarships, an all-time high.
- Two new cutting-edge schools serve the fast-growing Bluffton community: PreK-Grade 8 River Ridge Academy and May River High School.

- The district has added 260 full-day prekindergarten slots over the past two years, which has allowed schools to reduce or even eliminate waiting lists of at-risk children who need focused attention before they start classes. The district earned the 2015 Champions for Children Award from the Institute of Child Success for its efforts to improve early childhood education.
- Okatie Elementary School became the first school in state history to earn three top honors in the same year: a National Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education, the 2014 Dick and Tunky Riley Award for the state's top School Improvement Council, and a 2014 Palmetto's Finest award from the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.
- Red Cedar Elementary won a 2015 Palmetto's Finest Award. Hilton Head Island High and Beaufort Middle were winners of 2012 Palmetto's Finest Schools Awards, making Beaufort one of only four districts in the award's 34-year history to have had two winners in the same year.
- National publications rank two district high schools among South Carolina's best. Hilton Head Island High is ranked No. 5 in South Carolina by U.S. News and World Report, and Bluffton High is ranked No. 7. In addition, Hilton Head Island High ranked No. 6 in South Carolina and Bluffton High No. 12 in The Washington Post's annual listing of "America's Most Challenging High Schools."
- We developed a college scholarship program – the Building a Better Beaufort Scholarship, also called "B3" – which pays up to two years of tuition costs at the Technical College of the Lowcountry for qualified local high school graduates.
- We are dramatically expanding career and technology courses designed to prepare students for high-paying jobs and industry certifications in rapidly emerging fields. New high-tech facilities are being built at Battery Creek High School and the under-construction May River High School.
- A national watchdog organization rated the district's website as the most transparent among South Carolina's 10 largest school districts.
- The school district's Facebook page attracts more than 5 million viewers per year, and its website attracts more than 7 million page views per year.
- We have dramatically improved the district's security screening process for school volunteers and, at the same time, increased the number of volunteers from 1,300 last year to more than 5,000 today.
- We continue to see significant savings from smart financial decisions, as well as from the installation of cutting-edge technology that conserves power and water.