



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC Public Charter School District Pioneers South Carolina's First Statewide School District Parent Advisory Council for Students with Disabilities

COLUMBIA, SC - The South Carolina Public Charter School District (PCSD) announces the establishment of the first statewide school district Parent Advisory Council for the parents and guardians of students with disabilities. This initiative aims to enhance parent involvement in the recommendations and contributions towards policies that impact the education and support of students with disabilities within its schools.

The Parent Advisory Council's creation comes amid significant growth in the number of students with disabilities attending schools within the district. Since Fall 2020, the PCSD has experienced a 63.5% increase in students with disabilities, bringing the total number to 3,915. This marked increase underscores the importance of actively involving parents as partners in public education and policies that impact students with disabilities, ensuring that their unique needs and goals are addressed.

"We believe that parent advocacy and school choice are essential to the development and implementation of programs that support our students with disabilities," said Superintendent Chris Neeley. "By listening to and considering the perspectives of our students' most important advocates—their families—we can better address their needs and foster an educational environment where every student can succeed."

The Parent Advisory Council will launch in February 2025. Through these regional and state advocacy forums, the district will ensure families' insights, concerns and suggestions play a key role in shaping the future of special education across the state.

For more information on the Parent Advisory Council or to learn how to become involved, please contact PAC@sccharter.org.

About the South Carolina Public Charter School District

The PCSD is committed to providing high-quality education for all students, fostering an environment of inclusivity, and supporting families in guiding the academic, social, and emotional success of their children. Through our collaboration with state and federal partners, we continue to innovate and improve our educational programs to meet the diverse needs of our student population. The South Carolina Public Charter School District authorizes, champions, and supports the creation and advancement of innovative K-12 public charter schools in South Carolina. We value all students' unique talents and abilities and hold high expectations for social, emotional, and academic growth inclusively within the diverse population we serve.



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