

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release

### **Two CCSD Schools Receive Grants to Diversify their Libraries**

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Communications

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**Charleston, SC** — Charleston County School District (CCSD) is proud to announce Minnie Hughes Elementary School (MHES) in Hollywood, and W.B. Goodwin Elementary School (WBGES) in North Charleston, as grant recipients from The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries. More than \$930,000 in grants will be distributed to 160 school libraries across the country this year for the purchase of books and reading materials. The grants to individual schools are up to \$7,000.

"As a former librarian, I know school libraries play an important role in improving student achievement and encouraging students to love reading," said Former First Lady Laura Bush. "With this grant, your librarian will make your library the perfect place for students to fall in love with reading."

WBGES is receiving this grant for the first time after applying for several years. The funds will be used to update the school's non-fiction area and add titles to the Spanish-language collection, as the school has a growing Hispanic population. New books will be showcased in the library on a display shelf, and "book talks" will be videotaped and shown on the school's morning news show.

"This is an awesome opportunity to support students and the experiences they need through non-fiction," explained Goodwin Principal Dr. Diane Ross. "We are excited for this award and what it means for our students and faculty."

MHES will use the grant funds to purchase books that highlight the rich cultural history of the community.

"Our students can actually visit where the Stono Rebellion took place, and our community is one of the last areas in the country where Gullah culture has been retained," wrote Winnie Green, teacher librarian at Minnie Hughes. "The grant will allow us to have literature in the library that focuses on our

students' own community and culture. These books will instill a sense pride in our students for their school and community."

To sum up the excitement about the grant at Minnie Hughes, Principal Bridget Berry simply quoted Dr. Seuss from his book *I Can Read With My Eyes Wide Shut*.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know," Berry added. "The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries has provided grants to schools throughout the nation since 2002.

For more information about these grants, contact CCSD's Office of Strategy and Communications 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 that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and several 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 led by associate superintendents. 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.

#### **About the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries**

The Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries provides grants of up to \$7,000 to our Nation's neediest schools so they can extend, update, and diversify the book and print collections in their libraries with the goal of encouraging students to develop a love of reading and learning. Since its inception in 2002, it has awarded over \$14.3 million to more than 2,700 schools across the country. In addition to the annual grants, the "Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative" in 2006 provided nearly \$6.5 million to school libraries affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to rebuild book collections lost or destroyed in the storms. In 2014, The Laura Bush Foundation transitioned from the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region in Washington, D.C. to the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, Texas, where it is managed as a restricted fund. More information can be found at [www.laurabushfoundation.org](http://www.laurabushfoundation.org).