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Media Release

CCSD Initiates Stop the Bleed Training for Staff

Charleston, SC – Charleston County School District kicked off the new year with a life-saving initiative that will be available to district employees in every school over the next few months.

Office of Strategy and Communications

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Through a partnership with the State Department of Education, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and The Medical University of South Carolina MUSC Trauma Center, nearly 1,100 Combat Level Tourniquet Kits were distributed to all CCSD facilities.

These tourniquet kits contain supplies and cuff-like devices which can stop severe traumatic bleeding during an emergency on the school campus or during a school event, enabling lay-people to intervene and potentially save lives.

On Friday, January 4, 2019, multi-site training was conducted. The City of Charleston Fire Department, Charleston County Emergency Medical Services, South Carolina State Guard, North Charleston Fire Department, Trident Trauma Center, MUSC Trauma Center, and Mount Pleasant Fire Department members assisted in the training.

Stop the Bleed: Bleeding Control for the Injured is designed to address uncontrolled bleeding from accidents or intentional harm. Uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death from trauma.

“Accidents can happen - whether it be from sports, on the playground or in the classroom,” said Stiles Point Elementary School nurse, Jill Burgin, District Nurse of the Year. “This training helps to keep our students, and anyone in our buildings safe. With an arterial bleed, you can die in three minutes. Emergency personnel can’t get there that quickly, and this will allow everyone from custodians to lunchroom staff and anyone else employed within CCSD to respond quickly.”

Burgin has been a nurse for almost 25 years and has spent 14 years with the district. She said the combat level kits are greatly improved from things used in the past.

"Injuries can be caused by something as simple as a slip and fall - it can be one extreme or another," said Burgin. "Whatever the cause of that injury, CCSD staff will be ready to take care of it."

Kit distribution and training is a tri-county effort coordinated by MUSC and local first responders. It began two years ago in the private sector and has now reached community entities.

Regina Creech is the Injury Prevention Coordinator for MUSC's Trauma Center. She said the initiative allows schools to be more readily equipped to move into action to save a life should an injury occur.

"It's about being the help until help arrives," she said. "Tourniquet training is just as important as CPR and the knowledge can be applied in many scenarios."

For more information, contact Melissa Prendergast, CCSD Director of Nursing Services at 843-745-2183.

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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.