

**For Immediate Release**  
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## Media Release

Office of Strategy and  
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## **La Dene' Conroy retires after 31 years with CCSD**

**Charleston, SC** – Principal La Dene' Conroy has announced her retirement from Mary Ford Elementary School where she will continue to serve through December. Camille Hendrix has been named Interim Principal.

Conroy has served in the educational field for the last 36 years; 31 years in Charleston County School District. She served 17 years as Principal in six CCSD schools.

She is known best for her work with teachers, teacher training, professional development, children's literature and her love of learning.

Conroy was asked three times by three superintendents to assist in area schools: Mt. Zion Elementary was her first school to assist in community relationships. At Malcolm C. Hursey, she implemented the first Montessori Program as a partial magnet for CCSD. She stepped in for a year as interim principal at Murray-LaSaine

Elementary while the school was moving from swing space to their new Montessori space, while still serving as Charleston County School District's Montessori Specialist.

Conroy currently is a Montessori instructor for Montessori Philosophy and four leadership courses for administrators/adolescent teachers through Houston Montessori Center; instructor for Palmetto Primary Montessori Teacher Education Program with Seacoast Montessori Training Center; and teaches for Gulf Coast Montessori Training Center.

Conroy was chosen as Employee of the Year by the Access and Opportunity Division and was selected as one of the fifty Most Progressive People making a positive impact on Charleston in 2015.

"Ms. Conroy has selflessly served Charleston County School District in many leadership capacities from teacher to Learning Specialist to Principal for many years. For more than a decade, she has led the district in our development, support, and expansion of our Montessori programs," Michelle Simmons, Executive Director for Elementary Learning. "She has garnered certifications in specialized areas, including Montessori, that makes her a leader and well-respected resource internally and externally in our community and beyond."

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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.