

2021 – 2022



ANNUAL REPORT

**ROCK HILL
SCHOOLS**

A YEAR IN REVIEW FOR 2021-2022

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Want to stay in the know throughout the year?

Sign up for our new e-newsletter series "The District Download" to get a glimpse on what is happening in our schools and district.

Scan the QR code or sign up at: <https://bit.ly/districtenews>

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Rock Hill Schools Supporters,

We have a lot to be proud of. Throughout the 2021-2022 school year, we dealt with a lot of uncertainty, and I am proud to say the focus on teaching, learning and growth never wavered for our children.

As we tackled instruction in a second pandemic year, we were able to innovate how we were teaching to ensure critical learning remained a priority. Our teachers were flexible enough to respond to two modalities of teaching and ensure those who were at home could stay connected.

We also led the way in responding to COVID by establishing the Call and Processing Center to ensure our families were able to navigate sometimes confusing information related to COVID. We partnered with state agencies and health officials to navigate changing guidance and were able to offer free testing to students to help us combat sending healthy children home.

It's also imperative to note that our administration went through a transition, and thanks to the leadership of Dr. John Jones, our team didn't skip a beat. Dr. Jones was able to keep us moving forward and ensured our children were always put first. I am grateful to Dr. Jones for stepping up to make sure I could hit the ground running in January.

Despite all of our challenges, the best part of the year was seeing all of our community partners, parents and friends coming together to help us get through it all. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated community.



DR. TOMMY SCHMOLZE

Looking forward, it is our goal to take a more focused approach toward learning. By working in Professional Learning Communities, we will be able to ramp up this work and improve high levels of instruction in every classroom for every student but we cannot do it without community members like you. Stay tuned as we will be reaching out to various groups of supporters to help us in the coming year.

Thank you for being engaged with us and always supporting our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Schmolze". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dr. Tommy Schmolze
Superintendent

2021 – 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Our school board recognizes that public support and open lines of communication are vital to a successful educational environment for students and employees. Citizens are encouraged to stay informed on the decisions which affect students and teachers, to let board members know opinions on important issues, and to attend board meetings whenever possible.



Patrice Cherry



James Burns



Brent Faulkenberry



Windy Cole



Mildred Douglas



Robin Owens



Helena Miller



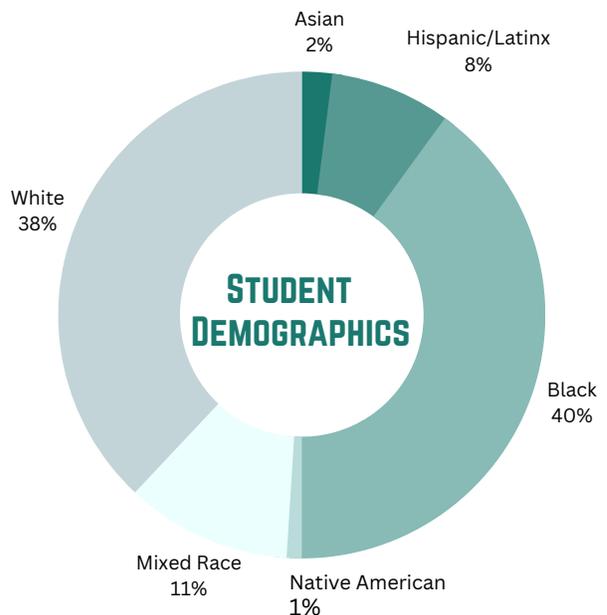
About Our Schools

Rock Hill Schools is the second largest school district in York County and one of the largest in South Carolina. We are home to 14 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, and 3 high schools.

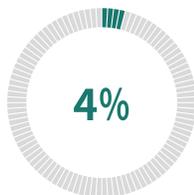
We are proud of our additional focused learning including the Applied Technology Center, Adult Education, Alternative Programs, ParentSmart, and the Virtual Academy. The district's Choice programs include language immersion, arts integration, career technical education programs, and STEAM learning. These programs offer families choices to fit their student's educational needs and nurture their talents, interests, and aptitudes.

The strength of Rock Hill Schools emanates from the expertise of our people. Success stories range from the classrooms of IB programs, to the preparation of students for the world of work, to reaching students with special needs.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT 16,707



ATTENDANCE RATE



DROP-OUT RATE



QUALIFIED FOR
FREE & REDUCED LUNCH

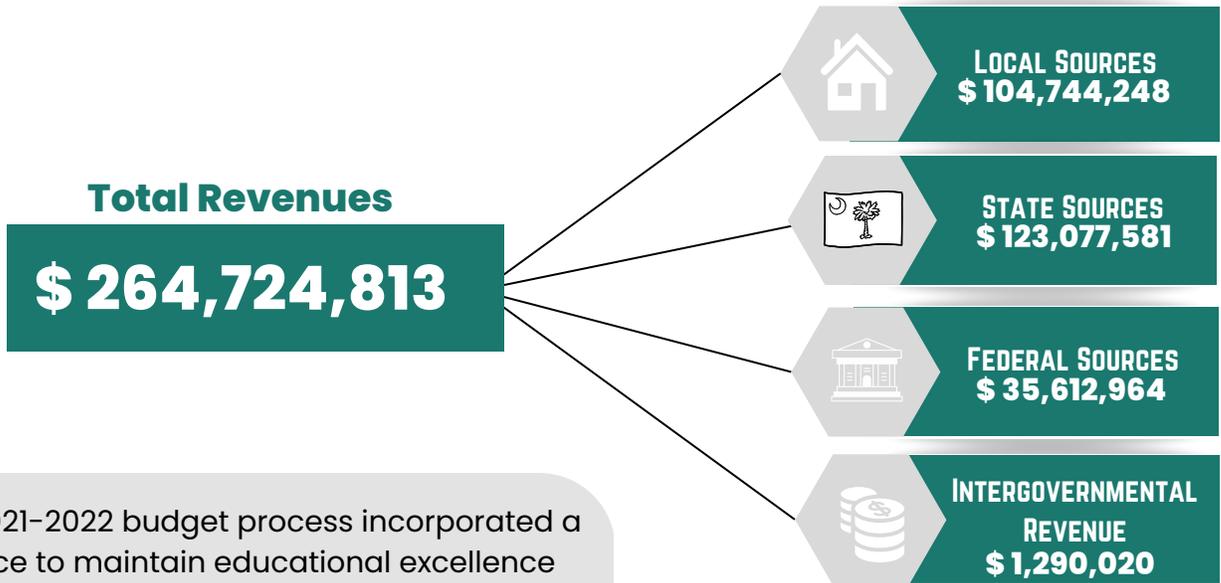


GRADUATION RATE

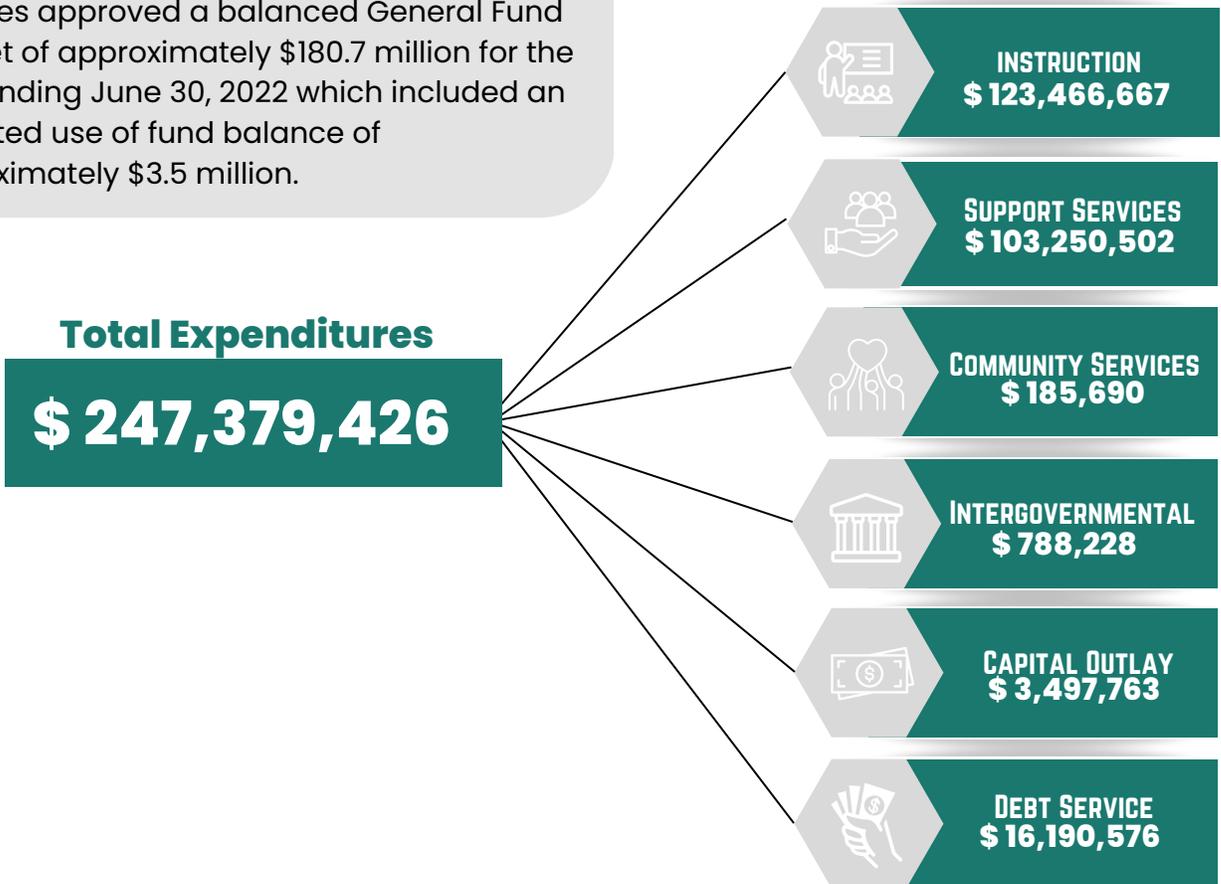


STUDENTS CLASSIFIED
AS SPECIAL EDUCATION

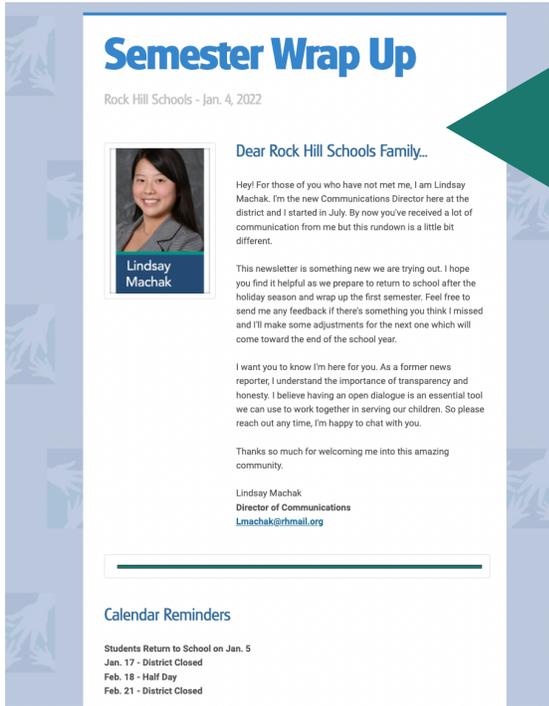
2021-22 Financials



The 2021-2022 budget process incorporated a balance to maintain educational excellence and fiscal responsibility for the Rock Hill Schools community. In June 2021, the Board of Trustees approved a balanced General Fund budget of approximately \$180.7 million for the year ending June 30, 2022 which included an expected use of fund balance of approximately \$3.5 million.



Connecting to Our Community



Increasing Communication Opportunities

We implemented more ways for our families to stay in touch with the district. From reinvigorating the use of communications@rhmail.org to creating a Semester Wrap Up parent eNewsletter, we were able to reach more than 14,800 parents and guardians throughout the year with critical information.

RHS Mental Health Department Featured on Good Morning America

We are so proud two of our programs were highlighted nationally in the media including the newly launched Mental Health Department on GMA and Robotics Summer Camp on "U.S. News."



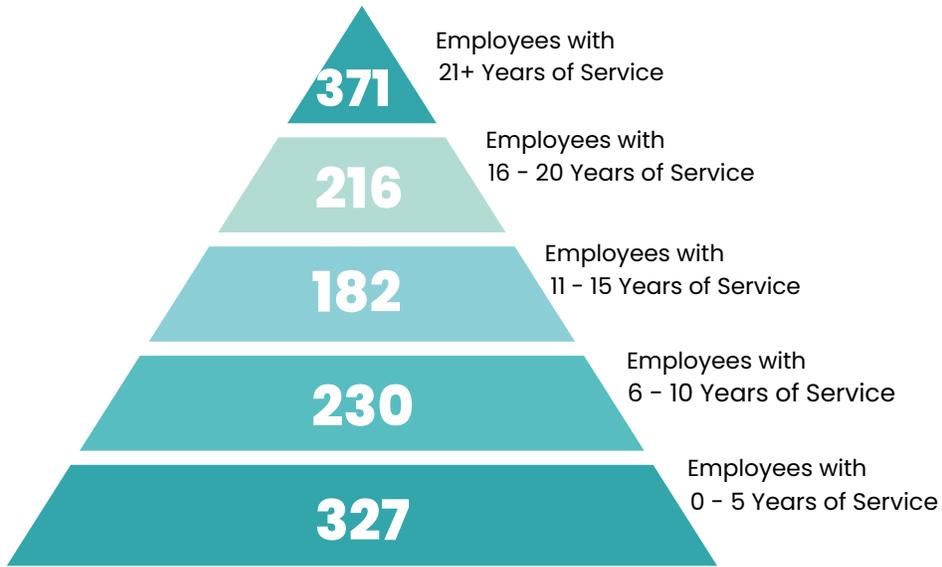
Meeting Dr. Schmolze

We welcomed Superintendent Dr. Tommy Schmolze mid-year through a Meet and Greet Series where community members were able to get to know him better.



Excellent Employees

Teacher Retention



Teacher Profile

94%
ATTENDANCE
RATE

64%
MASTER'S DEGREE
OR HIGHER

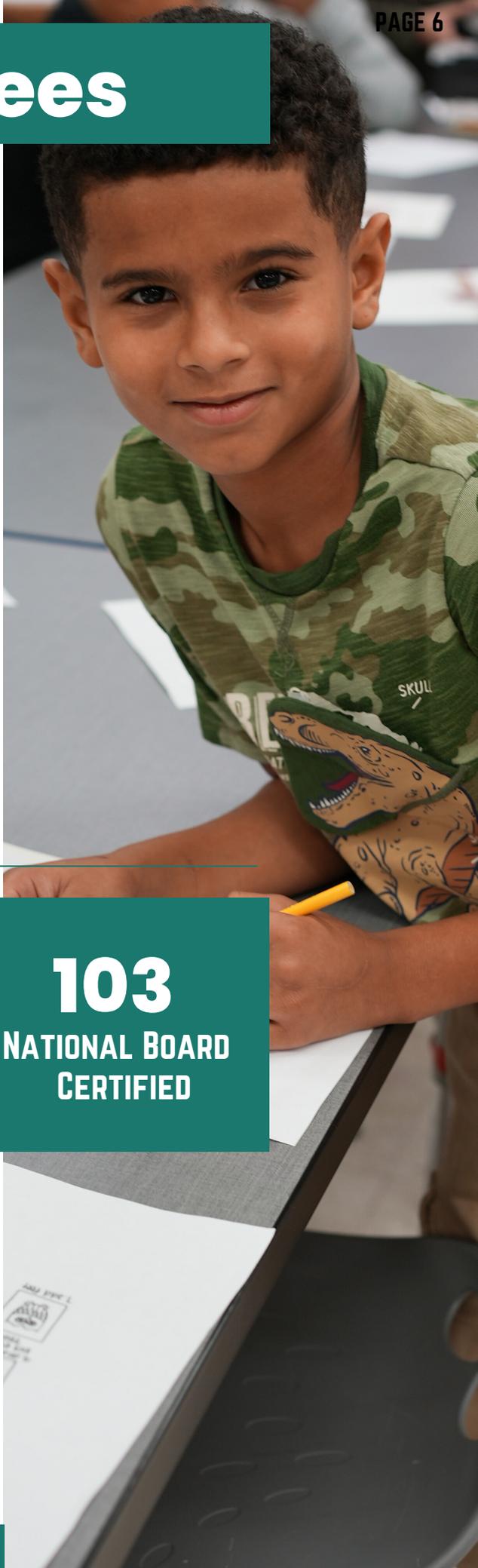
103
NATIONAL BOARD
CERTIFIED

Congrats Retirees!

Every year we celebrate our retirees for their service to our district. This year we honored 44 retirees with dinner



followed by music compliments of Northwestern High School Chamber Orchestra. Thank you for your years of service to Rock Hill Schools.





2022 GRADUATION By The Numbers

HIGHEST HONOR **143**

HONOR GRADUATES **84**

GOLD SEAL **353**

12 INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE
DIPLOMA CANDIDATES

17 ACADEMIC HONORS CERTIFICATES FOR
SUPERIOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

38

ADVANCED
PLACEMENT
SCHOLAR
CANDIDATES

56

ADVANCED
PLACEMENT
SCHOLARS

COMBINED MONETARY VALUE OF
ALL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

\$34.8 MILLION



Points of Pride

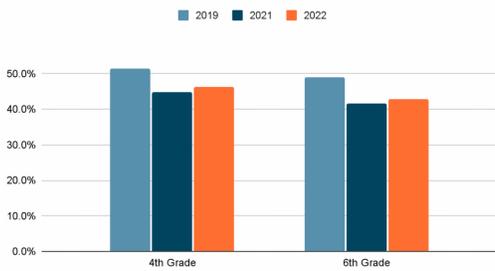
- Eli Robinson, junior at Northwestern High School, placed first on the USC-L South Carolina Junior Scholars Academic Quiz and Caleb King, junior from Rock Hill High School, placed second
- Jada Jones, senior at Rock Hill High School, awarded National African American Recognition Award
- Senior French Hornist Derek Thompson from Northwestern High School earned a third place finish at the state Master Recital Competition
- Nine Rock Hill Schools students selected for All-State Band
- 71 Dual Credit Students – Seniors who have earned 12 or more college credits in high school
- 29 Seal of Biliteracy award recipients



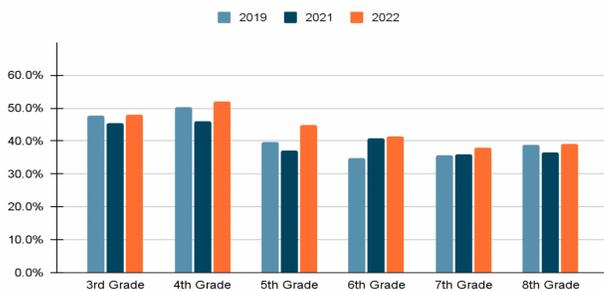
SC PASS & SC Ready

State-wide testing to reflect the continuum of knowledge and skills exhibited by students.

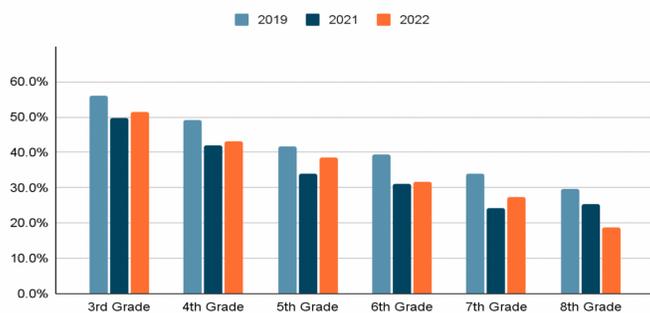
SCPASS - Science - % Meets or Exceeds



SC READY - ELA - % Meets or Exceeds



SC READY - Math - % Meets or Exceeds



Community Pathways

Rock Hill's Adult Education program assists eligible members of the community with furthering their education and/or workforce training beyond high school, as well as provide English language improvement classes (ESL) and employee skills enhancement training. On average the program provides service to approximately 200 individuals each year, helping them achieve their personal, academic, and career goals. To learn more visit, <https://www.rock-hill.k12.sc.us/adulteducation> or call 803-981-1375.

- 33** Average SAT Score: 979
Ranking for the district out of 81 South Carolina districts with available data.
- 31** Average ACT Composite Score: 16.5
Ranking for the district out of 85 South Carolina districts with available data.

PROFILE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GRADUATE

WORLD CLASS KNOWLEDGE

Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness

Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences

WORLD CLASS SKILLS

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

- Integrity
- Self-Direction
- Global Perspective
- Perseverance
- Work Ethic
- Interpersonal Skills

Operations Management



State of our Facilities

Rock Hill Schools' largest upgrade during the 2021 - 2022 school year were the two classroom additions at India Hook Elementary School. With this upgrade, we are pleased with the new learning spaces it provides for our students.

DID YOU KNOW?

Oakdale Elementary School turned 72 years old and has been an integral part of the community for many years. Oakdale is named for a large grove of oak trees in the area when the school was built, most of which are now gone.

Ebenezer Turns 100!

The oldest school in the Rock Hill School District, Ebenezer Avenue School, was originally built in 1921. Located near downtown Rock Hill, the school served as a neighborhood school for grades one through eight and now serves children in 3-year-old kindergarten through fifth grade.



Transportation: Our Fleet

5,625
TOTAL MILES
TRAVELED
PER DAY



98
STATE-OWNED
SCHOOL BUSES



102
NUMBER OF DRIVERS



NUMBER OF STUDENTS
ASSIGNED TO BUSES



6,792

54
DISTRICT-OWNED
SCHOOL BUSES



45
MAXIMUM SPEED LIMIT
FOR SCHOOL BUSES



5,510
NUMBER OF
BUS STOPS
PER DAY

Health & Safety

Nutritional Services

All schools served a nutritious breakfast and lunch every day for all students in 2021 -22 thanks to federal funding. All meals served meet nutritional standards established by federal (U.S. Department of Agriculture) and state (South Carolina Department of Education) regulations.



BREAKFASTS SERVED
785,000



LUNCH MEALS SERVED
1,500,000

Custodial Services



90%

of our products used are **GREEN SEAL** Certified

100%

of the products used in our facilities are **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY**



Safety & Security

The purpose of the Safety & Security Department is to provide a safe and secure environment for students, staff, district property, and other key stakeholders. Through a proactive approach including staff training and partnerships with local first responders, Rock Hill Schools works to ensure students, employees, and visitors to our campuses are safe. Some safety measures include: 2,110 cameras throughout the district, single-point entrance system in schools, access controlled doors, random safety screenings, and school safety audits by SCSBIT (SC School Board Insurance Trust).

3

CAMPUS SECURITY ASSOCIATES

The district currently has a Campus Security Associate located in each high school.

19

SAFETY SECURITY OFFICERS

Full-time private armed security officers who patrol the school campuses.

16

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

In addition to the formal training required of all police officers, they receive specialized training to aid their interactions with students and staff.



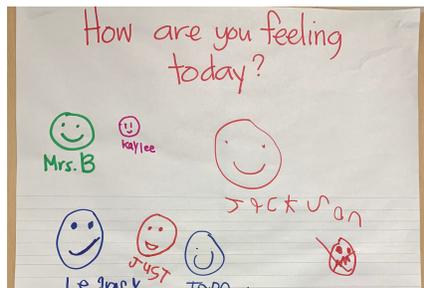
Strategic Planning, Engagement and Program Support

The department works to best ensure our students are present, in a healthy state physically, mentally, and environmentally to accept the opportunities, challenges, and rewards our educational system has to offer to support their student development.



Nursing Services

Provides daily support for student health needs in our schools to best ensure these needs minimally impact access to uninterrupted academic and social opportunities. We are proud of the success of our COVID-19 Call Center, COVID-19 daily dashboard updates, and the in-school testing of COVID-19 for families and employees. The COVID-19 call center answered 914 calls during the timeframe March 2022 - July 2022 with 894 calls answered in 300 seconds.



Mental Health

In Fall 2021, Rock Hill Schools became the **first in the state** to launch a Mental Health department! We have nine full-time licensed mental health therapists. In addition, it is our fourth year with Behavior Management Assistants at every elementary & preschool and our second year with Crisis Management Assistants at every middle and high school. RHS also offers a Day Treatment Center with highly-trained individuals to serve those unable to function in a traditional setting due to severe trauma, neglect, or other serious mental health issues.



Student Services

Works directly with students and their families to remove barriers to access, participate and thrive in an unencumbered educational experience.

In Fall 2021, the Student Advisory was created and currently there are 15 student members. The members of the cohort learn about the different departments within Rock Hill Schools and provide valuable insight and feedback on important topics.

Points of Pride

WHAT MAKES US SPECIAL?

- Independence Elementary Named a **Leader in Me Lighthouse School** by FranklinCovey Education
- First cohort pioneer group of 69 Dual Language Immersion students entered high school in Rock Hill Schools
- Northside Elementary Re-Certified as an **ABC Arts School** (Arts in Basic Curriculum)
- Amy Medina, Northwestern High School, named RHS **District Teacher of the Year**



Amy Medina, Teacher of the Year

- Dutchman Creek Middle School has been re-designated as a **National School to Watch** for the third time by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform

- Cherry Park Elementary Awarded **Blue Ribbon Lighthouse School of Excellence**
- Saluda Trail Middle Re-Certified as a **STEAM School**
- RHS District earns Van Robotics Lighthouse District Award
- Central Child Development Center has earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children
- The South Pointe Band of Thunder, under the direction of James Turner, made State 4A finals and finished 10th in the State with a Superior rating
- Rock Hill Schools was named the **State of South Carolina Public School District Winner of the PEBA Partners Award** for its excellence in valuing its employee's well-being



- Cherry Park earned **U.S. Green Building Council Carolina's Leadership Award** for K-12 Green Schools, LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and the 2021 USGBC Carolina's Leadership Award for K-12 Green Schools
- **SC Band Directors Association Outstanding Performance Award:** Rock Hill High School Band, Northwestern High School Band, Dutchman Creek Middle School Band
- ATC cosmetology students competed in the ACSpsc State Competition and came home with gold and silver trophies

- South Pointe Stallions Football Team, 2021 4A State Championship
- Northwestern High School's Isaac McLellan, 2022 5A Wrestling State Championship Winner

- Rock Hill High Girls Basketball Team, 2022 5A State Champions
- Rock Hill High School Athletic Director William Warren was awarded the Fred Hoover Award for Excellence & entered into the SC Athletic Trainer's Association Hall of Fame

- Brittany Mobley-Meulman, All-State Winner, Rock Hill High Cross Country
- South Pointe High School alumnus DeVonte Holloman has been named the 2021 Region 3 4A Coach of the Year

ROCK HILL SCHOOLS

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www.rockhillschools.com

THANK YOU DONORS FOR SUPPORTING ROCK HILL SCHOOLS



**ROCK HILL SCHOOLS
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**

The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation promotes a collaborative alliance between the community and the Rock Hill School District Three to provide funding and other resources to support educational initiatives.

To learn more or to donate visit:
www.rhsfoundation.org

The Rock Hill Schools Education Foundation is an independent 501 c3 non-profit organization, not under direction of Rock Hill Schools.

**CLEMSON
UNIVERSITY**

**SC SCHOOL BOARDS
INSURANCE TRUST**

**JWJ CONSULTING,
LLC**

**FOUNDERS FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**