

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Charleston County Sheriff's Office and Charleston County School District launch student & School Resource Officer recognition program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, February 2, 2026

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – The Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO), in partnership with Charleston County School District (CCSD), is proud to launch a new monthly recognition program celebrating elementary student leadership and the meaningful relationships built through School Resource Officers (SROs).

Each month, a designated School Resource Officer will work collaboratively with their school principal to identify one outstanding student leader in grades 2–5. Selected students will be recognized for demonstrating leadership, character, and positive citizenship within their school community.

As part of the recognition, each student will:

- Enjoy a celebratory lunch
- Receive a special visit from representatives of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and Charleston County School District
- Be recognized alongside their School Resource Officer during a radio shout-out aired across five local radio stations

This program is supported through partnerships with Cumulus Radio, Explore Charleston, and Bodega Restaurant, longstanding partners of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office.

“Our School Resource Officers play a vital role in our schools far beyond safety; they build relationships, mentor students, and show up every day to support our children,” said Sheriff Carl Ritchie. “This program allows us to recognize the incredible work our SROs are doing while also celebrating the students who lead by example. We are proud to partner with CCSD to highlight the positive impact happening in our schools every day.”

“We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office and for the School Resource Officers who serve our schools with care, consistency, and

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compassion,” said Superintendent Anita Huggins. “Our SROs are trusted members of our school communities, and their presence helps create safe, supportive environments where students can learn and thrive. This program is a meaningful way to recognize both our student leaders and the dedicated officers who make a difference every day.”

2026 Recognition Schedule

- **February:** E.B. Ellington Elementary
- **March:** Edith L. Frierson Montessori
- **April:** James Island Elementary
- **May:** Jane Edwards Elementary
- **September:** Ladson Elementary
- **October:** Minnie Hughes Elementary
- **November:** St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle
- **December:** Johns Island Elementary

The Sheriff's Office and CCSD look forward to celebrating student leaders throughout the year and continuing to strengthen partnerships that support safe, welcoming, and connected school environments.

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