Annual Summary 2018–19
Raising the Bar

Our school system is known for having high expectations for our students and the belief that our students will and can achieve great things in the classroom and in life. But we’re raising the bar, each and every day, because we believe in pushing our students just a little more than what they believe they can achieve. Simultaneous to teaching them is helping them believe in themselves. By striking a balance, we’re making sure our students know they are supported while we raise their individual and collective bars. We want them to know and reach for their potential. At CCS, we challenge our students not to settle for average on any given day.

ONE

STUDENT AT A TIME
Expanding the CCS Footprint

Members of the Cabarrus County Board of Education broke ground at the site of what will be the district’s newest elementary school—Hickory Ridge Elementary School—in September 2018. Cabarrus County Commissioner Steve Morris, Cabarrus County Manager Mike Downs and members of the Harrisburg Town Council, as well as the project’s architects were on hand to dig up the dirt. Hickory Ridge Elementary is scheduled to open August 2020.

Connecting CCS Students with Community & Careers

CCS juniors and seniors participated in the inaugural Cabarrus County Career Connections Day (C4 Day), which was hosted by the Cabarrus County Education Foundation, Cabarrus County Schools and Kannapolis City Schools. More than 50 local businesses participated to discuss long-term careers, internships, apprenticeships and summer employment opportunities for students in Cabarrus County.

In the Room Where it Happened

The Cox Mill High School Dance Ensembles hosted Brandt Martinez, an ensemble cast member and dancer in the touring edition of the Tony Award-winning, smash hit Hamilton. CMHS dance students had the opportunity to learn from a current performing artist and experience a bit of Broadway.

Everybody’s All American

Wendell Moore Jr., Cox Mill High School Class of 2019, was the first player in the history of Cabarrus County basketball to be named a McDonald’s High School All American. He represented North Carolina during the most prestigious high school all-star basketball game in the nation as the only player from North Carolina selected for the East roster.

World Championship Contenders

Mount Pleasant and Northwest Cabarrus Middle Schools VEX teams represented Cabarrus County Schools at the VEX IQ World Championship in Louisville, Kentucky. Students competed with more than 400 other middle school teams from around the world. Chase Robotics, a team from Northwest Cabarrus Middle School, set the bar for future teams from NCMS as the first team from the school to qualify for the world competition.

Making the Grade

2018-2019 School Accountability results indicated 34 CCS (94%) traditional schools either met or exceeded academic growth for students. This is an increase of 5% from the previous year.
ONE MOMENT CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY
GREAT SYSTEM
Students

CCS offers 15 specialized programs at 30 schools including STEM, IB, Language Immersion, Fine Arts, Early Colleges, National Academy Foundation-Certified Academies, Balanced Calendar. More than $35 million in scholarships earned by Class of 2019. Within our schools, 97 languages are spoken and students and families represent 89 countries.

33,000 students in our system

40 schools with two new ones opening in 2020

88.9% graduation rate

Community

42 community partners

During five Community Feedback Sessions hosted by Superintendent Lowder, the greater CCS community of parents and other stakeholders had a chance to share their thoughts and ideas as the CCS Strategic Plan was developed.

26 internship programs

When our region was hit by two hurricanes—Florence and Michael, students and staff stepped up to support those affected by raising money for the Concord Chapter of the American Red Cross, and donating grade-level school supplies, clothing, and posters of encouragement to cheer up their peers along the North Carolina coast.
Teachers + Staff

CCS is the 8th largest school district in North Carolina with 2,000 teachers and 4,000 employees, including our bus drivers who safely transport 26,000 students on school buses each day, and our school nutrition staff who serve up 1.2 million breakfasts and 2.7 million lunches annually.

2,000 teachers
255 National Board Certified Teachers
4,000 employees

Academic Growth

Academic growth was evident throughout the entire system of schools.

2019 CCS Schools

89% schools grew more than the year before
89% above zero growth
94.4% met or exceeded growth
63.8% exceeded growth
Cabarrus County Schools is among the largest school systems in North Carolina, educating more than 33,000 students during the 2019-2020 school year. Our students are educated by highly trained, talented, professional and caring teachers in classrooms infused with the technology, tools and resources needed to help them reach their potential. We also are one of the largest employers in Cabarrus County – with approximately 4,000 employees.

We offer students a broad range of educational opportunities and experiences to meet their unique needs and interests. Everything from a time-tested traditional education to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), International Baccalaureate and language immersion to career and technical education, global studies, early colleges, fine arts and athletics to world languages, exceptional children, and gifted education are available for students.

We are progressive, innovative and child-centered. We are Cabarrus County Schools.

- 20 elementary schools
- 8 middle schools
- 8 high schools
- 7 National Academy Foundation-certified learning academies
- 2 early colleges
- 1 preschool
- 1 great school system