Every single day in Cabarrus County knowledge, ideas, services and experiences are shared between CCS and the community, region and state in which we operate. The open share icon is a 21st century symbol of sharing, and sharing is the overarching theme of this year’s annual report.

MISSION  We will value, teach and empower each student in a culture of educational excellence.

VISION  To produce globally-competitive, lifelong learners through rigorous and relevant curriculum taught by highly prepared visionary leaders who recognize the importance of engaging a diverse body of learners. To provide 21st century resources through responsible and efficient use of funding. To ensure success for all students in safe, inviting and healthy learning communities by building upon a foundation of stakeholder support and caring/respectful relationships.

BELIEFS  We believe in: • educating the whole child • personalized educational approaches for each child • caring and respectful relationships • safe, motivating, and inviting learning environments • integrity and honesty • parent and community partnerships • fiscal responsibility and efficient operations • data-driven decisions • achieving success and educational excellence

CABARRUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION 2013–2014

Dr. Barry Shepherd
Superintendent

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Excellence is the foundation upon which all of our work is built, and it is at the heart of all that we do in Cabarrus County Schools (CCS). Excellence is also the result of what we share with the community in which we live, work and play—Cabarrus County.

We appreciate all that you have shared with us. Receiving the depth and breadth of your support as we continuously strive for excellence to benefit our entire community shows a level of compassion and contribution for which we are always grateful. You have shared your resources—both the human and financial kind—with us, bolstering our schools with volunteers at crucial times such as testing, as well as regular school days and providing students with the supplies they need to be ready to get to work in the classroom.

You have shared your time and your talents by offering enrichment, on-the-job training and professional development opportunities for our students and staff members. Of course, your support does not surprise us. You've always shown up when we've asked.

The great work outlined in this annual report is a direct reflection of teamwork—the kind that happens when a community and a school system work together to educate the children who will in turn become the future leaders, workers, families and business owners in and beyond Cabarrus County. We offer our thanks to you—our partners in this journey. Your support has been and continues to be integral to our success. You have walked lock-step with us as we implemented new programs, opened new schools and welcomed new students, families and employees.

Cabarrus County Schools is in an enviable position. Our school system's story is woven into the fabric of Concord and its surrounding communities. Because of your support, we are able to offer students a broad range of exceptional educational opportunities, experiences and choices, which are as varied as our students themselves. The experiences we offer, in many cases because of our community's citizens, businesses and organizations, lift us up and set us apart as the clear choice.

We are proud to showcase our successes and share this annual report highlighting our many, many stories of achievement. We hope you are just as impressed and will share it with other potential families, sponsors, supporters or volunteers so we can continue to share our respective excellence with each other.

Enjoy this look back at our 2013-2014 school year of accolades earned and goals achieved, however, we know complacency is never an option. To be great is to be good, but to be excellent is to be shared!

Barry Shepherd, Ed.D.
Superintendent
APPsolutely Amazing!
A team of 7th grade STEM students (above) from J.N. Fries Magnet School created an app that was recognized as a Best in State winner in the 2014 Innovative App Challenge sponsored by Verizon. Team members (l-r) Colton Roberts, Blaine Mercer, Jake Meckley, Thomas Baker, and Chris Little, under the guidance of teacher/team sponsor Frank Parrish, created Infistudy: An app to help students and teachers more easily communicate about assignments and lessons.

As a regional winner, the team earned a $5,000 grant and received virtual training on coding and support from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media Lab’s app development experts to help bring their app concept to life.

It Takes a Team Effort to Achieve Top Marks
Student growth is the amount of academic progress that students make over the course of a grade or class. Students enter grades and courses at different places; some have struggled while some have excelled. Regardless of how they enter a grade or course, students can make progress over the course of the school year. Harold E. Winkler Middle School was ranked No. 1 in the state for student growth meaning their students moved their personal needles the most collectively. Credit must be given to the students who did the hard work, the teachers who taught them, and the parents who supported their children’s learning at home.

Other proof points of moving the academic needle are reflected below. In the 18 subject areas tested, CCS students’ scores were higher than state averages in 15 of those subject areas—some outpacing state averages by more than 10 percentage points!

- Math 1 (formerly Algebra 1) – 14.9% higher
- Biology – 10.4% higher
- 8th Grade Science – 9.7% higher
- 8th Grade Math – 8.6% higher
DEDICATION, PREPARATION AND PERSEVERANCE
Nothing speaks more to the spirit of our students than the preparation and perseverance exemplified by Joy Jackson, a 7th grade student at Harris Road Middle School. Although she was named the 2014 Cabarrus County Schools Spelling Bee Champion after spelling the word “insidious” during the longest final round in CCS Spelling Bee History (17 minutes and 23 seconds), her real growth happened when she was named runner-up in the 2013 CCS Spelling Bee. After coming so close the previous year, she rededicated her efforts and won back-to-back championships as her school’s top speller.

Spelling Bee 2014

Top 20 in the state for Student Achievement on End-of-Course/End-of-Grade Tests

Taking Fine Arts Education To The Next Level
CCS was named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation. CCS is seen as making a strong commitment to music education within the core curriculum. CCS is also proud to have a 12-year relationship with the Cabarrus Arts Council that has enhanced the way the arts are incorporated into the learning experience for all of our students. The partnership has been instrumental in bringing and sharing memorable and meaningful grade-level fine arts performances to students of CCS. Below are a few examples of how the arts are coming to life here.

- The artwork of Nick Mills and Riley van Ravesteyn of Winecoff Elementary School and Maria Buck of Jay M. Robinson High School, was selected to be in the “Artful Expressions: From the Mountains to the Sea” exhibit at the U.S. Department of Education in Washington D.C.
- Concord High School won 21 awards at the National Scholastic Art & Writing competition for the Mid-Carolina Region, resulting in student artwork featured on local billboards.
- Students were selected for the Honors Chorus for the 3rd straight year.
- Two CCS students and three schools received nominations for the 2014 Blumey Performing Arts High School Musical Theater Awards.

Our Future STEMs From Opportunities
It’s no secret that STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and careers are a local and national priority. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in STEM-related jobs is projected to grow to more than 9 million between 2012 and 2022. With that in mind, CCS places a significant emphasis on elevating STEM-related programs, projects and opportunities. From kindergarten math nights to global robotic competitions, CCS puts students in the middle of opportunities to build their STEM skills. For example:

- CCS students from J.N. Fries Magnet School and Harris Road Middle School swept the field at the State Math Fair held at the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. CCS students brought home first, second, third and honorable mention honors for the 6th-8th-grade division at the event.
- Somi Benrashid, a student at Northwest Cabarrus High School, earned a perfect score of 800 on the math portion of the SAT.
- Hickory Ridge High School’s Science Olympiad Team placed 1st and were named Science Olympiad Champs regional champions, winning 18 individual medals.
- The first CCS App Challenge was held.
- Jay M. Robinson’s VEX Robotics Teams competed in the national and world competitions.

Studnets@Work in Cabarrus County
Another example of how we connect and share with our community was displayed when students from Northwest Cabarrus Middle School participated in the annual Students@Work program offered by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Business Committee for Education. The students visited PDQ restaurant and PreGel. In their “classroom without walls” experience, they were able to make connections between the world of work and the business concepts learned during their classroom experiences. Approximately 24,000 students participated statewide.
Sharing Their Excellence At Every Level

At every level of the education process you will find excellence with compassion at CCS. Every year, CCS employees are identified as being top in their class in their given role. The talent these and other exceptional educators share with the students ultimately benefit the community in which we work, live and play. Our Career and Technical Education (CTE) program plays a significant role in training and funneling new talent to local employers in existing and emerging industries. Lisa Conger, CCS Director of CTE, was named the 2013 North Carolina Danny Hardee CTE Administrator of the Year, which recognizes a CTE administrator who is a leader, innovator and has a passion for career and technical education. Since 2007, she has led the implementation of several of the district’s most successful and popular CTE programs including the Fire Academy at Concord High School, the Culinary Arts program at Hickory Ridge High School, and the Robotics program at Jay M. Robinson High School.

It can sometimes take more than two hands to run a classroom. The role of the teacher assistant has proved valuable for the teachers and students. Harrisburg Elementary’s Karen Gehrig is named CCS Teacher Assistant of the Year. Gehrig is remarkable in the care she shows each
Sharing Skills Around The State and Nation
Our educators are not just sought after for their talent and abilities within the county or region, they are recognized throughout the state of North Carolina and the country for their contribution to educating children. Here are just a few examples of how their talent is being shared.

Three Wincoc Elementary School teachers were selected to receive Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST), the nation’s highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science).

Governor’s Teacher Network
Six CCS teachers were selected to participate in the Governor’s Teacher Network (GTN), a partnership between the Governor and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). This initiative provides a statewide platform for teachers to share their best work around instruction and professional development. The teachers serve for one year as instructional and professional development experts and facilitators.

Emily Riley, Cabarrus County Special Olympics Coordinator, was named the 2013 Special Olympics North Carolina Coordinator of the Year. Riley received the recognition for her leadership of the local Special Olympics efforts in Cabarrus County.

Frank Fiorella, director of the CCS School Nutrition Program, was named to the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. The Commission encourages community service and volunteerism as a means of problem solving across the state. It also provides valuable support for the state’s growing force of volunteers who impact the lives of others and help meet critical community needs.

CCS RANKED NO. 1 IN THE REGION AND TOP 10 IN N.C. FOR TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS
• 263 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS
• 99.6% OF ALL TEACHING POSITIONS WERE FILLED ON OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL
• 90% OF CCS TEACHERS MET GROWTH TARGETS WHICH IS 6TH BEST IN NORTH CAROLINA
Standing Together to Develop Healthy and Responsible Students

Encouraging healthy, responsible students is a staple in the CCS mission to educate the whole child. By fostering a climate that is inviting, safe, inclusive, motivating and respectful, CCS is helping to create productive citizens for our community and beyond.

As a comprehensive, community-wide initiative, CCS Education Leadership Alliance (ELA) and the United Way hosted the first-ever Stand Together provider services fair that gave participants information about academic opportunities and services available for students. According to Dr. Robert Kirk, managing director for the Office of the Superintendent for CCS and the leader of ELA, a collaborating community is a flourishing community.

Multiple organizations in the community share their talent with CCS to make the services we provide even more robust. The partnerships we’ve developed with the City of Concord and the Cabarrus County Sheriff’s Department have proven valuable in ensuring there is a school resource officer at each Cabarrus County school to protect our students and to promote safety. We also now offer a Crime Stoppers link on the CCS district website and all school sites that provides information on how to anonymously report crimes. We are proud of the collaborative relationship we have with our local law enforcement agencies and are happy to provide this important community service.

Another valuable and healthy community partnership exists with Carolinas Medical Center-Northeast, which puts two athletic trainers at each CCS high school and one at each middle school to provide medical treatment, body conditioning and training, and injury prevention. Additionally, our partnership with the Cabarrus Health Alliance that dates back to 1999, deploys a school nurse in every school. All of these shared resources and relationships allow CCS to more deeply support the needs of our students, teachers and staff.
Kindness is Contagious

Students at Harold E. Winkler Middle School participated in The Great Kindness Challenge, a national program created in 2011 to create a more positive, unified and respectful school environment. During a designated week, students performed as many acts of kindness as they could on campus – aiming for at least 5 acts per day per student.

Winkler's School Nurse Lynne Georgevich, R.N. said, “Our goal in accepting ‘the challenge’ was to help students realize that kindness is a proactive and positively powerful tool against bullying.”

KIDS:PLUS Continues to Shine with 5 Stars

The Cabarrus County Schools before and after school childcare program, KIDS:PLUS, is ranked #7 in the state of North Carolina for its SACERS rating—the School Age Care Environmental Rating Scale. Our program’s high ranking also boosts the success of the county’s SACERS rating. Of the 87 licensed centers in Cabarrus County, 35 (or 40%) hold 5-star licenses. Of those 35, the KIDS:PLUS Program makes up 54% with nineteen 5-star centers.

Making a Difference With New Product and Program Enhancements

Students at Concord High School’s Fire Academy received three donated vehicles—a fire engine, an ambulance and a rescue truck from the City of Concord Fire and Life Safety Department and Cabarrus County EMS.

In an effort to keep our students healthy, students at Royal Oaks Elementary School and Wolf Meadow Elementary School will enjoy more fresh fruits and vegetables next year thanks to a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

As a way to share our compassion for the community and express the importance of a daily nutritious meal during the summer months, the CCS School Nutrition Program participated in the Seamless Summer Option for Children. The program provides a free breakfast and lunch to children in our community whether they attend a CCS school or not. Meals were shared with families at various locations throughout Cabarrus County.

ECHS Repeats as Top School in Local Food Drive Competition

Our student commitment remains firm in serving others. For the second consecutive year, students at the Cabarrus-Kannapolis Early College High School came in 1st place in the Carolinas Student Hunger Drive competition for the small school category. ECHS students collected an average of 22 pounds of food per student for a total of more than 5,000 pounds.

$10,000 KING OF THE COURT VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT RAISED $10,000 FOR BREAST CANCER CHARITIES FOR SECOND YEAR IN A ROW
CCS Launches Innovative HomeReach Program

As the leader in educating and supporting the education of all the children in Cabarrus County, we have augmented our traditional classroom approach for some of our community’s students who are home schooled with the launch of HomeReach. Home reach allows home school families to offer supplemental high school courses to their students such as advanced placement courses, electives, world languages, sports, and music.

Keeping CCS Fresh and Top of Mind

The award-winning and effective CCS Clear Choice campaign continued with an updated edition of the CCS Look Book (cabarrusschools.info). The digital magazine brings Cabarrus County Schools’ stories to life in pictures, videos and words, setting us apart from other school options. It continues to highlight community partnerships; student, teacher and staff efforts and honors, as well as new or existing services. The campaign also included several strategically-placed billboards and was supported with stories in the media.

Our website continues to be a valuable tool to use to highlight and archive important school and district-related information. A redesigned version of the CCS website was completed with the user in mind to feature more robust functionality, brighter colors, intuitive navigation, more photos and more space for content on the front page. CCS department and school websites were also updated to present a cohesive and complimentary look for the thousands who visit them every day.
Multiple “School to Home” Touch Points Keep Parents Connected

Making it easy for parents and students to stay informed about what is happening within the district and their individual schools is important to CCS. With the introduction of the new student information system – Pearson PowerSchool, parents and students have access to a Parent Portal, which replaced Parent Assistant. The Parent Portal provides parents (and students) real-time access to grades, attendance records and schedules and is available from any computer with Internet access. We also offer other “school to home” touchpoints like:

- Websites
- Facebook & Twitter
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Curriculum Nights
- Open Houses
- Automated Phone Calls & Emails
- Report Cards/Progress Reports
- Parent Satisfaction Survey
- PTA/PTO/Booster Clubs
- Direct Letters for Specific Programs
- Principal Newsletters/Blogs
- Quarterly Online Superintendent’s Message

CCS Receives $3 Million Innovation In Education Grant

CCS is one of only two traditional school districts in the country to receive grant funding from the latest round of federal Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) competition. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, the competition is designed to find and scale up some of the most innovative ideas for improving education. CCS is working with community partners to secure the matching funds needed for the grant. Whether they are a new partner or one who has been standing strong with us year after year, community partners are valuable to elevating many projects and programs like this one.

It All Adds Up!

Schools Step Up and Win Individual Grants

Northwest Cabarrus High, Northwest Cabarrus Middle, and Charles E. Boger Elementary Schools benefited from a $65,000 Champions Grant from the Jimmie Johnson Foundation. The grant was earmarked to repair and improve the track, which is located on a tri-school campus shared by all three schools. The track improvement impacts the healthful living standards of more than 2,000 students in addition to Northwest Cabarrus community neighbors who also have access to the track.

A.T. Allen Elementary and C.C. Griffin Middle Schools won big with Big Lots! They were crowned 3rd place winners in the company's Lots2Give video and voting competition. Each school received a check from Big Lots for $2,744.84. Each school was required to write a narrative indicating how they would use the funds to meet the needs of the students along with a video to further communicate those needs.

Winecoff Elementary School earned $2,806 from Target in the Give With Target online fundraiser. Schools throughout Cabarrus County, the state and the nation competed for funds based on votes from students, parents, and school supporters, and Winecoff Elementary ranked first in votes in Concord, Cabarrus County and North Carolina and landed in the top 10 in votes for the nation.

$1,699,743 AWARDED IN GRANTS

$96,250 OF SUPPORT

DOLLAR GENERAL AND UNILEVER SPONSORED READING TRACK TO VICTORY LITERACY PROGRAM FOR THE 4TH YEAR

CABARRUS COUNTY ROTARY DONATED 500 BOOKS TO CCS KINDERGARTENERS
Behind the Scenes Efforts

There are many people and services that are not student- and parent-facing that deserve recognition even if they are not as visible. For example, without sound financial management and a sound technology infrastructure, more notable components to education wouldn't be possible or would be more difficult. Here are a few examples of the unsung services that have been recognized for excellence.

We are proud to say that CCS received another flawless financial audit. The Cabarrus County Board of Education received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials International, and Kelly H. Klutz, the Chief Financial Officer for the Cabarrus County Board of Education received a Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

As you can imagine, a school system as vast as ours requires quite a bit of technology to keep us all connected and up and running. We often take for granted the systems in place that allow all of our technology to work simultaneously and effortlessly. The Friday Institute For Education Innovation recognized CCS’s school technology infrastructure as Best in State.
HOLLYWOOD COMES A-CALLING

Cabarrus County Schools welcomes and encourages the community to use our facilities. We know that sharing our schools will only strengthen our partnerships and foster an even greater sense of community. Our classrooms, gymnasiums and auditoriums are used by a number of civic and community groups that enrich the lives of our students and bolster our community at large in a variety of ways.

Sometimes, our ‘community’ expands and Hollywood comes a-calling. That is exactly what happened in the spring of 2014 when NASCAR and Cheerios teamed up to give one fan the ride of his life. Lucky for us, that fan turned out to be a Jay M. Robinson High School student who received a ride to school courtesy of NASCAR Driver Austin Dillon.

Our student thought the cameras following him around his house last May were for a documentary about students at his high school. However, it was all a ruse, which ended as soon as he stepped outside and heard the tires on Dillon’s car screeching down his quiet suburban street. A few minutes later, he was hopping in the No. 3 Cheerios Protein race car, headed to school on the ride of his life with Dillon behind the wheel!

Parts of this national commercial were filmed at the high school. Talk about ‘sharing’ our schools!

Editor’s Note: Watch the Cheerios commercial on YouTube. Still want more? Go behind the scenes at: http://www.blog.generalmills.com/2014/08/worlds-fastest-ride-to-school/

TOP RATED IN TOP 20 IN 2013 STATE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY INSPECTION

Useful to the community

Throughout the year, a variety of civic/community organizations use our schools for meetings. We welcome the opportunity to optimize our facilities.

Youth sports leagues use our ball fields and gymnasiums for practices and games.

Dance studios use our auditoriums for recitals and performances.

STUDENTS TRANSPORTED 4.8 MILLION MILES WITH 0 INJURIES

$1 MILLION MORE THAN $1 MILLION IN ENERGY SAVINGS

99.4% IS THE AVERAGE SCHOOL HEALTH INSPECTION SCORE, WITH 23 OF 36 SCHOOLS SCORING 100%
**Elementary Schools**

- A. T. Allen
  3939 Abilene Road
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 788-2182

- Bethel
  2425 Midland Road
  Midland, NC 28107
  (704) 888-5811

- Beverly Hills
  87 Palaside Drive NE
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 782-0115

- Carl A. Furr
  2725 Clover Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-4300

- Charles E. Boger
  5150 Dove Field Lane
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-1600

- Coltrane-Webb
  61 Spring Street NW
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 782-5912

- Cox Mill
  1450 Cox Mill Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 795-6519

- Harrisburg
  3900 Stallings Road
  Harrisburg, NC 28075
  (704) 455-5118

- Long School
  310 Kerr Street NW
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 784-3614

- Mary Frances Wall Center
  3801 Highway 601 South
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 782-5712

- Mount Pleasant
  8555 North Drive
  Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
  (704) 436-6534

- Patriots
  1510 Holden Avenue
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 455-1882

- Pitts School Road
  720 Pitts School Road SW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-3430

- R. Brown McAllister
  541 Sunnyside Drive SE
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 788-3165

- Rocky River
  5454 Rocky River Road
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 795-4505

- Royal Oaks
  608 Dakota Street
  Kannapolis, NC 28083
  (704) 932-4111

- W. M. Irvin
  1400 Gold Rush Drive
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 782-8864

- W.R. Odell School
  1215 Moss Farm Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 782-0601

- Weddington Hills
  4401 Weddington Road
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 795-9385

- Winecoff
  375 Winecoff School Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 782-4322

- Wolf Meadow
  150 Wolf Meadow Drive SW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 786-9173

**Middle Schools**

- C. C. Griffin
  7650 Griffin’s Gate Drive
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 455-4700

- Cabarrus Opportunity
  120 Marsh Avenue NW
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 793-1736

- Concord
  1500 Gold Rush Drive
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 786-4121

- Harold E. Winkler
  4111 Weddington Road NW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 786-2000

- Harris Road
  1251 Patriot Plantation Boulevard
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 782-2002

- Hickory Ridge
  7336 Raging Ridge Road
  Harrisburg, NC 28075
  (704) 455-1331

- J. N. Fries
  133 Stonecrest Circle SW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-4140

- Mount Pleasant
  8325 Highway 49 North
  Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
  (704) 436-9302

- Northwest Cabarrus
  5140 Northwest Cabarrus Drive
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-4135

**High Schools**

- Cabarrus - Kannapolis Early College
  1531 Trinity Church Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 260-0229

- Central Cabarrus
  505 Highway 49 South
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 786-0125

- Concord
  481 Burrage Road NE
  Concord, NC 28025
  (704) 786-4161

- Cox Mill
  1355 Cox Mill Road
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-6700

- Hickory Ridge
  7321 Raging Ridge Road
  Harrisburg, NC 28075
  (704) 454-7300

- Jay M. Robinson
  300 Pitts School Road SW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-4500

- Mount Pleasant
  700 Walker Road
  Mount Pleasant, NC 28124
  (704) 436-9321

- Northwest Cabarrus
  5130 Northwest Cabarrus Drive
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 788-4111

- Performance Learning Center
  133 Stonecrest Circle SW
  Concord, NC 28027
  (704) 795-7074

www.Cabarrus.k12.nc.us
www.CabarrusSchools.info