



Data and Distinctions

Mission

Spartanburg School District 7 shares the **Mission, Vision and Values Statement** — 'To inspire and equip students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens. We accomplish this by providing innovative, demanding learning experiences at every grade level. Our motto is - *Tradition. Excellence. Innovation.* In these efforts and, in all ways, the District strives for unmatched excellence in academics, athletics, activities, and the arts.

Our District

District 7 is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of nine elected community leaders. We serve approximately 7500 students in one early learning center, seven elementary schools, three middle schools and one high school. We share a technology center with District 3 and a countywide special needs school with all county school districts. Each district elementary school has a unique focus and school choice is offered.

Board of Trustees

The school district is governed by a diverse nine-member board of trustees averaging over 12 years in experience. Trustees meets the first Tuesday of each month at the District administration building at 610 Dupre Drive. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm. Those wishing to make public comments during the meeting are asked to sign up during the day of the meeting at the District Office.

Mr. Vernon Beatty

Ms. Meg Clayton

Mr. Rick Gray

Mrs. Hallie Hurst

Mrs. Griffin Lynch

Mr. Clay Mahaffey

Mr. Jeff Mason

Mr. Kenneth Myers

Ms. Sharon Porter

Mr. Jeff Stevens serves as the Superintendent in Spartanburg County School District Seven. The superintendent is responsible for the oversight of all aspects of the school district – Instruction, Personnel, Student Services, Finance, Operations, and Planning. The office also develops and executes strategic initiatives and tactics to elevate student achievement.

District 7 is nationally accredited by Cognia, formerly AdvancED, which recognizes districts that meet rigorous standards that focus on productive learning environments, equitable resource allocation for meeting the needs of learners, and effective leadership. It is widely considered to be the "gold standard" of quality assessment for schools and school districts.

Our district is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by..."

- Providing educational and experiential opportunities that
- heighten student engagement
- promote creativity and collaboration
- advance anywhere, anytime learning through 1:1 technology
- ensure students are college and career ready

Moving beyond the mastery of subject material to focus on the whole child. In addition to the niche learning models that support our academic efforts, students are engaged in the arts, athletics and a wide range of extra curricular activities. District 7 partners with national, regional and local organizations that provide expanded opportunities, programs and resources to enrich the quality of life for our students and their families. District 7 provides teaching and learning environments that inspire and equip students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens. In a day and age when our children are being prepared for an increasingly competitive economy and encouraged to explore their

aspirations before high school, The Profile of the South Carolina Graduate is an instructive framework in our common focus to ensure that our students have the world class knowledge, world class skills and the life and career characteristics so vital to their success.

As Spartanburg School District Seven ushered in a new era in 2020 with the opening of the new Spartanburg High School, we celebrate the collective impact of a community who believes in our mission, vision and core values – and who invests in the success of our students. District Seven is fortunate to benefit from partnerships across our broader Spartanburg community as well as from a world-class faculty and staff. Our collective commitment to equity in education and to addressing the needs of the whole child is evidenced by our outcomes as well as our national accolades and distinctions.

District Seven is propelled by an unwavering dedication to fulfilling our mission to inspire and equip students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens. Our mission is emphasized in all that we do, and we share a common vision to prepare our graduates as creative, critical thinkers, collaborators, effective communicators and ethical citizens. Our core values of tradition, excellence, innovation, hope, engagement, well-being, and relationships speak to the unique way Spartanburg School District 7 approaches our mission and vision. Our students, teachers and staff, our families, community partners and stakeholders have all been invested in charting this direction, and we live out these ideals inside and outside of the classroom every day.

As we strive to ensure each student is college and career ready, our secondary school programs provide a clear snapshot of our progress. The district's graduation rate has improved significantly over the past nine years and is well above the state and national average, and our SAT average is among the highest in Spartanburg County. Approximately 85% of our graduates continue their education at a higher education institution or in the military. Ensuring our students are ready for the world of postsecondary education begins early. District Seven's 1:1 technology initiative to close the digital learning gap and improve learning for all students placed us among 114 of the most forward-leaning school districts in the country who comprise the League of Innovative Schools. We are proud to be a member of this flagship network of districts who share a commitment to pioneering innovative learning strategies and collaborating with researchers to drive improvement. Spartanburg High School's rigorous Advanced Placement program ranks among the best in the state, with a record number 144 Advanced Placement Scholars identified this year and AP exam passage rates that far exceed the national average. Spartanburg High School is also proud to consistently lead the county in its number of National Merit Semifinalists, the highest academic honor available to secondary students.

Equally important to high achievement is our focus on creating access for all students. Each school across District Seven does this in way that best fits with their school community. Whether they have achieved excellence as an AVID School of Distinction, earned certification as a Capturing Kids Hearts school, become an International Baccalaureate School, opened a Montessori program, adopted an arts-infusion approach, or found their niche as a Leader in Me Lighthouse School, they all share the common goal of helping each student overcome obstacles in order to reach his or her full potential. Results are seen not only in our graduation and college matriculation rates, but also in our student cohorts who have simultaneously earned their high school diploma and an associate's degree through the Viking Early College and the Spartanburg County Early College High School. Both of these programs put the completion of a bachelor's degree much more within reach for students who are often times the first in their family to attend college. Additionally, numerous students earned dual college credit and industry certifications at Spartanburg High School, Daniel Morgan Technology Center, and the Scholars Academy.

With these consistently positive student outcomes, U.S. News & World Report ranked Spartanburg High School among the top in the nation in their "America's Best High School's" list; and the Jay Matthews Challenge Index (formerly published by The Washington Post) has once again recognized Spartanburg High School as one of our nation's most challenging high schools.

Several important partnerships support and strengthen District Seven's efforts to move students beyond the mastery of subject material. Organizations like the Spartanburg Academic Movement (SAM), the Northside Initiative, the Highland Group, the City of Spartanburg, One Spartanburg, and Compassionate Schools enable us to fully invest in bettering the quality of life for students, their families and the broader community. This past year, we broadened our public-private partnerships with the opening of The Franklin School, a world-class early learning center located in the high-need area of our District's Northside, with the goal of equipping children from birth to 5 years of age to enter kindergarten ready to learn. The

Franklin School joins District Seven's other public-private partnership school, Meeting Street Academy, as evidence of the innovative approach to education within our community.

Looking to the future, our capital projects continue to change the landscape of District Seven. The District opened the new Drayton Mills Elementary School in August 2018 and the new Spartanburg High School in Fall 2019. We renovated the former high school facility to house McCracken Middle School, which opened in the Fall of 2020. In our work to be a leading district in the Southeast, we are demonstrating our abiding commitment to give students a competitive edge through exceptional instruction, world-class learning environments, and a technology-rich learning environment. We are excited about the gains taking place in District Seven and dedicated to a school system that readies every child for the world beyond school.

Data

Located primarily in the city of Spartanburg, District 7 enrolls approximately 7500 students each year and is staffed by a team of 1500 professionals. You'll find 13 schools in the District, including eight elementary schools, two middle schools and our flagship Spartanburg High School. While statistics like these may be helpful, we think it's far more meaningful to define our demographics by scaling down the numbers.

In other words, if you imagine the District to be a village of 100 children – this is what we would look like:

Our Village of 100

- 89 are present for school on a given day
- 18 in the gifted program
- 33 enrolled in Advanced Placement
- 14 have a learning disability
- 72 live in poverty (individual schools range from 38% – 95% poverty)
- 84 will graduate in 4 years with a diploma
- 85 will attend college or enter the military within a year of graduating
- 53 African-American
- 32 Caucasian
- 10 Hispanic
- 3 Asian
- 2 Other

Faculty Demographics

Total District Staff 1500

Certified Teaching Staff 663

Teachers with Advanced Degrees 64% Average Teacher

Salary \$55,950

Pupil/Teacher Ratio Core Subjects 12.1 to 1 National

Board-Certified Teachers 106 Attendance Rate 94.4%

Retention Rate 89.1%

Financial Data

General Fund 2022-2023 (Proposed Budget)

Revenue \$84,985,000

Expenditures \$84,580,951