



## **Spartanburg School District Seven Overview**

Established in 1884 and located primarily in the City of Spartanburg, Spartanburg School District Seven has a rich tradition of excellence in education. Today, our mission to "inspire and equip our students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens," is emphasized in all that we do. Thanks to a long legacy of tremendous leadership in the district, our facilities are some of the finest in the Southeast. Our student outcomes speak to strong academics and innovative teaching and learning - both in and out of the classroom.

District Seven is a small urban school district that enrolls approximately 7500 students each year and is staffed by a team of 1500 professionals. The district is comprised of 13 schools, including seven elementary schools, two middle schools, and our flagship Spartanburg High School; as well as the Early Learning Center, a partnership with Spartanburg School District Three for the Daniel Morgan Technology Center, partnerships across all seven districts for the Whitlock Flexible Learning Center, the McCarthy Teszler School, and Spartanburg County Adult Education; and a partnership relationship to provide early learning at The Franklin School. All public schools in the district are fully accredited by the State Department of Education and Cognia/the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. District Seven student cohorts also simultaneously earn 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.

The annual operating budget is approximately \$85 million, and the average teacher salary is \$55,950.00. The district has 115 National Board-Certified Teachers and the average years of experience for teachers overall is 25 years.

In 2013, District Seven forged a bold path to eliminate the digital divide among students and implemented a dynamic 1:1 technology program that put mobile devices in the hands of every student in the district in grades 2-12. Cited by The League of Innovative Schools, Apple, Inc., and Future Ready Schools for its best practice efforts, the district's commitment to blended and digital learning continues to advance student outcomes.

### **Our Mission**

*We will inspire and equip our students for meaningful lives of leadership and service as world citizens.*

### **Our Vision**

*Our graduates will be creative, critical thinkers, collaborators, effective communicators and ethical citizens.*

### **Our Values**

*Tradition. Excellence. Innovation. Hope. Engagement. Well-Being. Relationships.*

## Recent Accomplishments

Continuity in District Seven's leadership over the last decade has enabled broad-based accomplishments, innovations and growth that have advanced the district's reputation on a statewide and national level:

- A comprehensive restructuring effort created middle schools, flexible learning opportunities, and expanded early learning opportunities.
- The district expanded access by implementing school choice and establishing a focus for each school 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, all District Seven schools share the common goal of helping each student reach his or her full potential.
- Seven Ignites, a 1:1 technology/digital immersion initiative, eliminated the technology divide within the District. District Seven was invited to join the nation's League of Innovative Schools and was recognized by Apple as a Distinguished Program as a result of its comprehensive technology program.
- A greater focus on the district's children from birth to 5K led to partnerships at Meeting Street Academy and The Franklin School, and the addition of 4k classrooms in all elementary schools.
- Spartanburg High School's Advanced Placement program remains one of the best in the state. College access opportunities have been strengthened as the district advanced dual credit opportunities through early college programs and expanded college opportunities on the Spartanburg High School campus.
- An ambitious capital projects plan was completed in 2020, upgrading learning environments throughout the district. Spartanburg High School's new campus opened in August of 2019 and was made possible through a referendum that was overwhelmingly supported by the District Seven community. The new Drayton Mills Elementary School opened in Fall 2019, welcoming nearly 700 students. Renovation of the former high school took place during the 2019-2020 academic year in preparation for it to be the new home for McCracken Middle School in Fall of 2020.
- Enrollment in District Seven has increased for the eighth consecutive year, indicating that the district is part of a vibrant, thriving community.
- A fully-invested, district-wide initiative to advance equity and inclusion has been in the conceptual stages over the last few years, hand-in-hand with Spartanburg's collective work towards this end. It officially launched at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year.
- Most importantly, District Seven's new mission, vision and values point to a district entirely committed to educating the whole child. In partnership with the community, District Seven has cultivated a culture that substantially contributes to the hope and well-being of thousands of District Seven students and recent graduates. Robust partnerships with civic, faith-based, business, and non-profit groups throughout Spartanburg have become part of District Seven's fabric – from Spartanburg Academic Movement to revitalization initiatives with the Northside and Highland communities, from the City of Spartanburg to the Mary Black Foundation, and many more.

The district's flagship Spartanburg High School, enjoys the following distinctions:

- An 85% graduation rate that has consistently climbed for the past 6 years
- On average, more than 84% of graduates enroll in college or the military within two years of graduation
- Graduates in the Class of 2021 earned more than \$16 million in scholarships
- Since the establishment of Advanced Placement Courses in SC's public high schools, Spartanburg High School has offered more Advanced Placement courses than most high schools (public or private) in South Carolina and its record of AP scores is among the best in the state.
- Spartanburg High School was the first in the nation (public or private) to be awarded the US Department of Education's National Blue Ribbon School award four times.
- Spartanburg High School is proud of its record number of National Merit Semifinalists, and was home to more National Merit Finalists across public and private high schools in Spartanburg County.
- This year, SHS is recognized among the top of all public and private high schools in South Carolina and the top in the nation by the Jay Matthews Challenge Index (formerly known as the *Washington Post's* "America's Most Challenging High Schools"). It is also consistently recognized by *US NEWS & WORLD REPORT* as one of the top high schools in the nation.

#### **District Seven Schools**

- Carver Middle School
- Cleveland Academy of Leadership
- Drayton Mills Elementary
- E.P. Todd School
- Jesse Boyd Elementary
- Mary H. Wright Elementary
- McCracken Middle School
- Meeting Street Academy
- Pine Street Elementary
- Spartanburg High School

#### **District Seven Partnership Schools and Programs**

- Daniel Morgan Technology Center (District Three fiscal agent)
- McCarthy Teszler School (District Seven fiscal agent)
- Meeting Street Academy (District Seven fiscal agent)
- Spartanburg County Adult Education (District Seven fiscal agent)
- The Franklin School
- Whitlock Flexible Learning Center (District Seven fiscal agent)

#### **District Seven Board of Trustees**

- Vernon Beatty
- Meg Clayton
- Rick Gray
- Hallie Hurst
- Griffin Lynch
- Clay Mahaffey
- Jeff Mason
- Kenneth Myers
- Sharon Porter

**Learn More about Spartanburg School District Seven at <https://spartanburg7.org>**