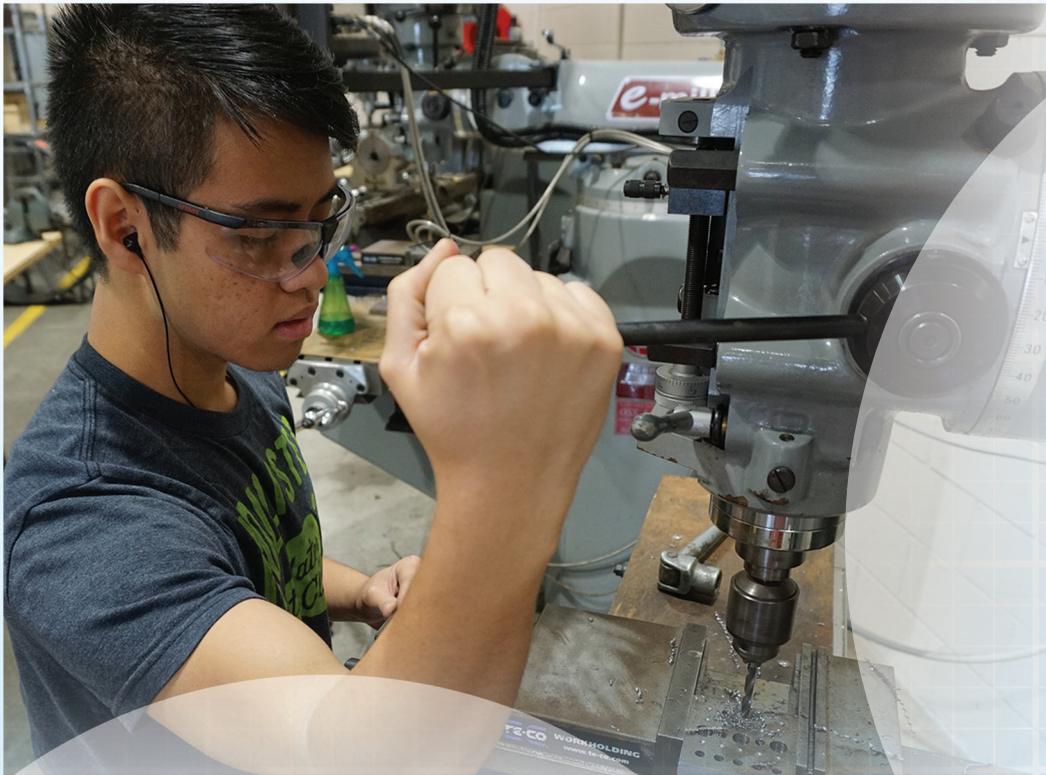




# Building a Better **GRADUATE** Greenville County Schools



## PROFILE OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA GRADUATE

### World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts, and social sciences

### World Class Skills

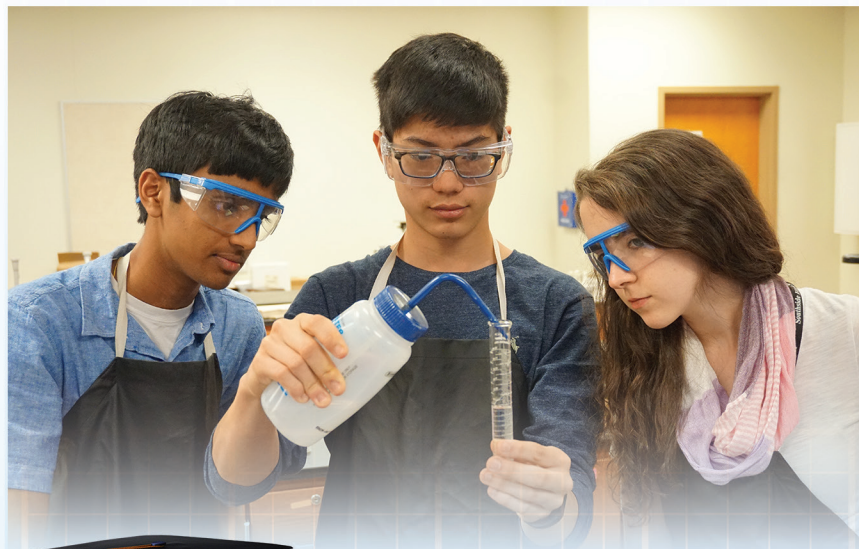
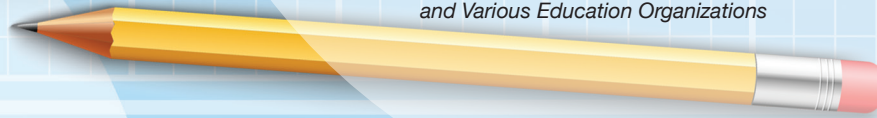
- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media, and technology
- Knowing how to learn

### Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

**Developed By:** SC Association of School Administrators' Roundtable  
**Endorsed By:** Transform SC, SC Council on Competitiveness, SC Chamber of Commerce, SC Board of Education, SC Education Oversight Committee and Various Education Organizations

**Graduation Plus** Creating Career and College Ready Students



**Graduation Plus** Creating Career and College Ready Students

Learn More About  
Graduation Plus



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# Greenville County Schools Building a Better **GRADUATE**



Don't ask kids what they **want to be** when they grow up but **what problems do they want to solve.**

This changes the conversation from who do I want to work for to **what do I need to learn** to be able to do that.

Jaime Casap  
Google Global Education Evangelist

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# Greenville County Schools Building a Better GRADUATE



## Graduation Plus

Creating Career and  
College Ready Students

Recognizing that jobs in today's workforce require more than a high school education, Greenville County Schools is committed to graduating students with a diploma, plus a technical certification and/or college credit. Graduation Plus is a district-wide initiative from pre-K through high school to ensure all students are career and college ready.



### PRE-K

#### Developing Good Learning Habits

Four-year-old kindergarten is a time when children experience extensive social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. The skills he or she learns, such as knowing what sound each letter makes and how to add two plus two, may seem simple, but will set a child up for a lifetime of learning. Parent involvement is critical at this age to encourage early literacy.



#### Developing an Eager Learner

- Read to your child to encourage him or her to want to read.
- Find reading moments in everyday life – such as road signs, grocery lists, and recipes.
- Model positive skills and values to allow your child to blossom into an independent, self-motivated achiever. By demonstrating the importance of learning, you put your child on a pathway to future success.

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



#### Broadening Horizons through Awareness

(Grades K-5)

From kindergarten through fifth grade, counselors and teachers help students learn about themselves and their interests. Each student takes a Career Interest Inventory to identify activities and behaviors they enjoy that could lead to future careers. Teachers and counselors help

students explore numerous occupations in the classroom and during field trips and career days. Students are learning that the world around them is interconnected and that people often work in teams to accomplish goals.

#### Expanding Career Awareness

- Field trips to businesses allow students to meet people and ask questions.
- These visits give students insight into what a typical day in a profession is like, and create learning opportunities about the education and skills needed for that industry.
- Students are exposed to new experiences that may increase interest and engagement in college and/or a career.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL

#### Connecting the Classroom to Career and College

(Grades 6-8)

Counselors use Naviance college and career planning and assessment tools such as College Match and Career Cluster Finder to help middle school students identify strengths, goals, skills, knowledge, and interests in future educational and career opportunities. While in middle school, students have opportunities to earn Carnegie Units of high school credit. A seventh grade career fair provides exposure to a wide array of careers and opportunities to meet people who work in specific jobs. In eighth grade, students tour four career centers before creating Individual Graduation Plans (IGP) with their parent/guardian and school counselor. Students are empowered to choose from 16 career clusters and six career pathways that identify specific areas that interest them.



#### Middle School Exploration and Ownership

- Individual Graduation Plans are designed to guide students in grades eight through twelve toward their education, career, and employment goals.
- Allowing students to make choices about courses empowers them to take ownership of their decisions.
- When students make their own choices, attendance, attitudes, and behaviors improve.

### HIGH SCHOOL

#### Gateway to Career and College

(Grades 9-12)

By the time students reach high school, they have mapped out an Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) that reflects their educational and career objectives as well as the courses they will need to graduate. The courses are determined, in part, on where the student's interests lie, and can be modified as interests and skills develop or change. Each year the student, parent/guardian, and school counselor review and update the IGP for the coming year. High school students can earn college credit through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or dual credit courses. Other course offerings include STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), Honors, and college prep, as well as foreign languages and arts and humanities. Students have opportunities to receive advanced comprehensive arts instruction in an intensive pre-professional program of study at the Fine Arts Center or earn technical certification in various fields at a career technology center.



#### Gateway to Career and College

- The end goal is for graduating seniors to complete high school with technical certification and/or college credits, including opportunities for credit within a specified major.



### CAREER AND TECHNICAL

#### Work-Ready Certification

(Grades 9-12, Based on Program)

Four career and technical education centers provide hands-on skills to prepare students for postsecondary training or the workforce. Students take courses as electives and attend for half-days. The centers offer over 85 courses that award basic and/or advanced certifications. Ninth grade students can sample eight career center courses to learn more about potential fields of study. Tenth and eleventh graders can earn industry certification. Twelfth graders can begin working in co-ops or internships.

#### Basic Certifications:

Auto Collision Repair, Auto Tech, Carpentry, Childcare, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Fire Safety, HVAC, Machine Tool Technology, Mechatronics, Nail Tech, Nursing, Welding

#### Advanced Certifications:

Automotive Collision, Automotive Tech, Carpentry, Cosmetology, Food Service, Nail Tech, Nursing, Welding