Literacy United Project
Sponsored by Trident United Way

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is building a dynamic and challenging educational system of choices to increase student achievement and close the achievement gap in order to prepare all students to compete in a global economy and make a positive contribution to our community and nation. The promotion of literacy among preschool and elementary school students (PK-5) is crucial to realizing this mission — as improved reading skills not only increase student outcomes in all subjects, but also allow them to meaningfully connect with content and build knowledge. In order to move children to literacy proficiency, CCSD is partnering with the University of Florida Lastinger Center to launch a series of tailored literacy professional development initiatives to support multiple levels of the ecosystem including administrators, instructional coaches, interventionist, teachers, and students.

These efforts are deigned to scaffold support and sustain change. CCSD will have the capacity and tools to create and encourage an effective school wide literacy culture, including the increasing instructional leaders' knowledge of literacy, ability to support teachers in literacy instruction, and scheduling efficiently to maximize the academic engagement of students. Teachers will gain an understanding of the reading process and the skills necessary to teach reading separate from specific programs, thus improving reading instructional practice, implementing programs with fidelity, making data based instructional decisions, and in turn setting more students on an early path to literacy and future academic achievement. The professional development for teachers will provide in-depth training on the small group instructional model. Participants will gain an understanding of the comprehensive foundation for reading development with the goal of setting up new teachers for success in reading instruction.

After engaging in this professional development, participants will
- Identify and explain research about literacy development;
- Understand the complex nature of learning to read and the difficulties some children experience in acquiring reading skills;
- Examine where break downs occur for children and determine where to intervene;
- Learn how to analyze data effectively and work collaboratively with classroom teachers.