

New Hope Elementary School

The mission of New Hope Elementary School (NHES) is to provide a solid, content-rich Kindergarten through 5th grade learning environment that prepares students for academic and social success in middle school and beyond using the research-based, classical Core Knowledge (CK) Sequence curriculum with a focus on liberal arts. We will also use the phonics-based Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) program. CKLA has a strong phonics component where children are taught incrementally how to decode and encode words, as well as a knowledge component that teaches reading through relevant, integrated content. Research supports our belief in CK to provide the content children need to be successful not only in school, but in life.

We will attract and recruit highly qualified, certified teachers through offering compensation that exceeds the local district pay scale. Teachers will have the opportunity to loop up to the next grade level at least once with their children to minimize academic loss commonly due to the time it takes new teachers to ‘learn’ their students each year. Looping, along with small class sizes, will enable the teachers to fully know the needs of their students and provide the instructional time needed to make significant academic gains.

We will utilize a strong character education program that promotes personal excellence and respect for humanity in every way, while celebrating individual cultures and values within our school family. Our children will engage in relevant off-campus field experiences that align directly with their current classroom studies.

Our mission strongly supports and reinforces the founding principles of the South Carolina Charter Schools Act. The fundamental purpose of our school is to provide students who live in our state’s lowest performing Lowcountry school districts an opportunity for school choice and a brighter future in education. We will achieve this with an intensive focus on the provision of an academic atmosphere with a solid instructional foundation. We will systematically raise the achievement levels to meet the state’s standards set forth by the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE). Our students’ proficiency levels will exceed the local district’s achievement averages in the first year of operation and increase annually. We will employ academic and administrative coaches through Charter Starters (CS) who will aid to ensure our school’s academic charter goals are accomplished.

Maslow’s hierarchy of needs reveals children can only focus on learning when their basic needs are met. Many families in this region do not have adequate basic nutrition or transportation. Every day and for every child, we will provide daily balanced meals for breakfast and lunch that meet the USDA nutrition standards. We will provide multiple bus routes so the families will have equal access to attend our school.

We will employ multiple Parent-Teacher Liaisons who will service our students and their families to ensure students and families are provided essentials needed so their children can focus on learning.

Our intentional facility placement in the heart of one of the state’s lowest performing areas will serve to prove that all children can learn.

The current state test scores of the children in Allendale School District One, Hampton School District Two and Jasper School District One fall far below the state average suggesting the overwhelming majority of the students in these districts are not on track to ever reach grade level expectations. These communities deserve a free public choice in education as their current system has failed them. Though these communities are stricken with poverty, our school will bring new hope in education for the children. Partnership with stakeholders will add to the success of NHES. Our team will work diligently until the children in our school

are no longer deficient. We aim to make these communities in desperate need of academic reform, proud of their school and children's success by providing the tools needed for them to accomplish proficient academic achievement levels.

The planning committee for our school was formed using a three-prong approach in order to meet the capacity needs for starting a school. It was formed by bringing onboard 1) professionals in their field of expertise, 2) members from the communities that will be serviced by the school, and 3) innovative educators who will use their experience and training to deploy the right balance of instruction, curriculum and classroom techniques to produce a high-quality, Blue Ribbon school. Once the committee assessed the academic and nonacademic needs of our targeted communities, they believe change will only come about by offering parents in these communities an exceptional education option, innovative academic programs and a concerned qualified group of leaders to operate the school.

It's the intention of the planning committee to identify a qualified group of leaders, educators and parents to serve on the school's governing board. The initial planning committee will identify those they believe have the necessary skillsets and capacity to assist with opening the school and to oversee its operation.