

# Research & Development

Reports to *Planning & Accountability Executive Director*

## Our demographics

**Director:** Paul McKenzie

**Began position:** 1999    **In district:** 1999    **In education:** 1999

**Staff:** Haley Booher, Administrative Assistant

Adrienna Witherspoon, Program Director

Deborah Boulware, Prevention Coordinator

LaMonica Blair, Project Prevent Coordinator

Rodney Hamright, Prevention Coordinator

School Coordinators: Elizabeth Rowe

Toni Starnes

Torey Taylor

Robert Thompson

Patrick Young

Good Behavior Game: Elizabeth Rowe

Toni Starnes

Torey Taylor

Character Plus Program Coordinator: Patrick Young

**Location:** 610 E. Meeting Street, Lancaster, SC

## Our focus

Our department supports the district by researching and securing financial and programmatic resources to assist children and families in the community.

## Our functions

- Review all grant proposals submitted by teachers, schools or departments.
- Research local, state and federal funding sources.
- Develop, implement, manage and evaluate grant-funded programming, especially federal programs.
- Secure data, both archival and survey, detailing the needs and resources relevant to Lancaster County children and families.
- Serve as liaison with community organizations that support the district in serving children. Examples include:

Coalition for Healthy Youth

Lancaster County Partners for Youth

Hope on the Hill

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## Lancaster County First Steps

- Assist with teacher training on grant development.

## Our department strengths

- Prolific collaboration with public, private, civic and faith-based organizations.
- Serves as a conduit and repository of resources, programmatic and data, for parents and community organizations.
- The department has successfully sustained programs once grant funds have lapsed and has retained project staff throughout this process
- One of most diverse departments in the district.

## Our honors & awards

- Authored over \$86 million dollars in approved federal grants
- Authored over \$10 million dollars in approved state or foundation grants
- 2000 Outstanding Program of the Year by the South Carolina Association for Rural Education (After-School Program)
- 2003 Top Truancy Prevention Programs, South Carolina Department of Education
- 2004 FAST National Leadership Award (for family strengthening services throughout district)
- Character Education Programs at both Clinton and McDonald Green Elementary received a nationally recognized “Promising Practices” award
- Successful Federal Grant Awards in several highly competitive competitions, including:

21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers

Carol White Physical Education Program

Drug – Safety Coordinators Program

Character Education Initiative

Early Learning Opportunities Act

Reading First

Alcohol Prevention

Drug-Free Community Support

Early Head Start

Juvenile Mentoring Project

Abstinence-Based Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Elementary Counseling Demonstration Project

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Safe Schools – Healthy Students

Professional Development for Arts Educators

Juvenile Drug Court Initiative

Advanced Placement Incentive Program

Full-Service Community Schools

Good Behavior Game Grant

Supporting Teens Through Education & Protection (STEP Grant)

Early Head Start Partnership

Project Prevention

GEAR-UP

Smaller Learning Communities

Safe and Bright Futures

At-Risk Innovative Grant

Head Start Expansion