

Research & Development

Putting Our Children First

Our demographics

Director: Paul N. McKenzie

Began position: 1999

In district: 1999

In education: 1999

Staff: Miranda Tillman, Administrative Assistant

LaMonica Blair, Program Director

Rodney Hamright, Prevention Coordinator

Torey Taylor: AmeriCorps Director

LaVilla Brevard: Family Connections Coordinator

Grant Coordinators: Delmar Patterson

Kyia Hough

Amy Bundy

Tim Wallington

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
 - 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:

21st 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

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

School Improvement Grant

Education Oversight Committee Grant

GEAR-UP

Smaller Learning Communities

Safe and Bright Futures

At-Risk Innovative Grant

Head Start Expansion