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The Charter Institute at Erskine Launches Nation's First of Its Kind School Accountability Monitoring System

COLUMBIA, SC – The largest charter school district in South Carolina, the Charter Institute at Erskine, announced its development and implementation of an innovative school accountability monitoring system that affords teachers the ability to adapt instructional strategies based on student need data in real-time, rather than relying only on data from end-of-year state assessments.

The "Comprehensive School Snapshot" (CSS) model was launched by the Institute on December 6, 2021 for the charter district's 26 schools across the state of South Carolina. Unlike any other monitoring tool in the nation, the CSS provides formative data to teachers, principals, and school boards throughout the year to monitor student success and the health of the school.

"No longer will teachers have to formulate classroom instruction strategies based on data that is already one year old," said Charter Institute at Erskine Superintendent Cameron Runyan. "Our innovative CSS model empowers teachers and schools with real-time data and provides them with requisite support to do what they need to best serve children. While we are proud of this innovation, for the sake of student success, we are hopeful that other districts will follow our lead."

Given that charter schools receive less per-pupil funding than public schools, the Charter Institute at Erskine recognizes all resources must be optimized to ensure every dollar and every effort materializes towards accelerating student achievement.

"In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative for school leaders to be forward-thinking in ways to best serve students and protect tax dollars," said Mr. Rich Melzer, Deputy Superintendent of the Institute. "The Charter Institute at Erskine's CSS model accomplishes both of these goals."

The system's online portal further provides school leaders, as well as Board members, access to regular reports on an array of data including academics, special education & English Language Learners, student management systems, finance, grant management, and board governance. By

having access to this information, school-level stakeholders can conduct root-cause analyses to further improve student learning.

"The CSS has changed the way we view and think about our school's data," said Ms. Deirdre McCullough, school leader at Belton Preparatory Academy, the highest performing Title I school and the sixth highest performing elementary school in the state. "Our teachers are better prepared than ever before to Move the Needle in the classroom!"

The Charter Institute at Erskine is planning to present the CSS to officials across South Carolina to collect feedback and improve the model to continue positively impacting student outcomes.

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A quote provided by Superintendent Cameron Runyan is available here for download and use. Superintendent Cameron Runyan is also available for interviews on the launch of the Comprehensive School Snapshot model. To schedule an interview, please contact Ashley Epperson at 803-995-0527 or aepperson@erskinecharters.org.

Institute team members review the new accountability model at their annual team retreat in September of 2021.