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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Chatham County Schools Receives Digital Learning Impact Grant from NC DPI, State Board

*CCS is one of only seven districts statewide to receive this grant*

CHATHAM COUNTY (June 10, 2024) – The State Board of Education approved grant proposals for Chatham County Schools and six other public school systems that will fund effective digital learning practices in North Carolina's K-12 public schools. The state-funded competitive grant program under the state's Digital Learning Initiative supports the development and dissemination of local innovative digital learning models. This is an award of \$265,000 over three years, and Chatham County Schools will focus the funds towards professional development and events to showcase artificial intelligence and the ways it can support learning and content mastery.

Seven (7) **Digital Learning Impact Grants** were recommended by the State Board of Education, allowing districts to facilitate the development of innovative practices and new digital teaching initiatives.

“We are thrilled to accept this grant from the State Board of Education as part of North Carolina’s Digital Learning Initiative,” said **Dr. Kira C. Berggren**, Director of Digital Learning and Media Programs. “This funding will significantly enhance our ability to train our teaching staff on the best and most innovative AI instruction practices, ensuring that our students are equipped with the necessary skills for high-demand careers. We appreciate the support from State Superintendent Catherine Truitt and Dr. Vanessa Wrenn, and we are committed to utilizing these resources to advance AI-integrated teaching and learning in our schools.”

“I know that communities stand to benefit when the vectors of public education and abundant resources intersect,” said **Mr. Michael Charles**, Instructional Program

Facilitator for Digital Learning and Library Media. “The funds allocated by the Digital Learning Impact Grant represent a commitment on the part of NCDPI and Chatham County Schools to prepare our students to successfully navigate their increasingly computer-, internet-, and AI-integrated society. The hard-working educators across [the district] will ensure these resources translate into positive, tangible results for our students and, thereby, our community.”

The grant initiative was authorized in 2016 by the General Assembly as part of a collaboration between the State Board of Education and the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at N.C. State University to advance the state’s Digital Learning Plan. The goal of that plan is to develop a long-term strategy that sets directions and priorities, supports innovation and provides resources to enable educators and students to benefit fully from digital-age teaching and learning.

Other than Chatham County Schools, the other public school systems receiving the Impact Grant are:

- Alamance-Burlington School System
- Catawba County Schools
- Edenton-Chowan Public Schools
- Guilford County Schools
- Wake County Public Schools
- Lake Norman Charter School

For more information about Chatham County Schools as well as the Digital Learning Impact Grant, please contact John V. Wood, public information officer, at [jwood@chatham.k12.nc.us](mailto:jwood@chatham.k12.nc.us) or at (919) 548-3586.

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