

# Beemok Education

**Impact  
Report**  
2024-2025



Founded by Ben and Kelly Navarro, **BEEMOK EDUCATION** is a portfolio of initiatives creating opportunities and changing lives through a network of schools, performance bonuses for teaching excellence, and college scholarships.

First graders move with joy and purpose at Meeting Street Elementary – Burns.



Meeting Street  
Schools





DEAR FRIENDS,

We started working in education in 2008 with a clear mission: to create more opportunities for hard-working students and families.

Since then, our efforts have grown into three impactful organizations – Meeting Street Schools, the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund and the Excellence in Teaching Awards.

These efforts are changing the status quo and making a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of students and teachers across South Carolina. For those who are willing to work hard, these initiatives provide a gateway to a better education and a brighter future.

None of this progress happens in isolation. It is made possible through the dedication of educators, the

persistence of students and the generosity of partners.

Our first-ever Impact Report celebrates the people, progress and results that defined Beemok Education during the 2024-25 school year.

We're proud of what these initiatives have accomplished, and we're just as excited about what's to come.

WITH GRATITUDE,

*Ben & Kelly*



## Our why

# 04

### Meeting Street Schools

Every child should have the opportunity to earn an exceptional education.

Too often, under-resourced students can't access schools that enable them to achieve their full potential. Meeting Street Schools empowers students as young as 3 years old with a strong foundation in the mindset, habits and skills needed to be successful later. Families also commit to being partners, actively investing in and supporting their children's academic journey.

# 12

### Meeting Street Scholarship Fund

Hard-working students should be able to access college without taking on significant debt.

High-achieving students with demonstrated financial need who maximize state and federal scholarships and financial aid still owe more than \$10,000 annually on average for college tuition, fees, housing and food. The Scholarship covers that gap, eliminates the need for burdensome student loans and enables students to pursue college dreams.

# 18

### Excellence in Teaching Awards

Exceptional teaching should be rewarded.

For far too long, teachers' outcomes in the classroom have been completely disconnected from how they're compensated. The Excellence in Teaching Awards changes that by rewarding educators who are making the biggest impact on students' growth and achievement. As a result, hundreds of the best teachers are pouring their energy into their classrooms rather than second jobs.

# 22

### Make a difference

Together, we can transform education. Find out how your support can make an impact.

ABOVE

Kindergartner Aniya Kim lights up with excitement during a lesson at Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg.



Kindergartner Alaiza Talley sits with her class at Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg.

# Meeting Street Schools

---

Meeting Street Schools is a groundbreaking network of four South Carolina schools with a mission of “empowering children with the excellent, life-changing education they deserve.”

The network was founded in 2008 to give hard-working students the opportunity to receive an education that would transform their lives.

#### **MEETING STREET SCHOOLS INCLUDES:**

- Meeting Street Academy – Charleston
- Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg
- Meeting Street Elementary – Burns
- Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood



# Our model

## 1 Rigorous instruction

Students must think critically and produce high-quality work rather than passively rely on teachers for information and answers.

- Teachers take time to understand their lessons from a student's perspective so they can better explain concepts and potential misconceptions.
- Students receive the most impactful instruction because teachers are coached intensively and intentionally, including real-time guidance during class.
- Students benefit from core academic courses being delivered by two co-teachers.
- Leaders hold high expectations of both students and staff, and everyone is committed to doing whatever it takes to help every child succeed.
- Teachers instill a love of reading and focus on the building blocks of phonics.
- In math, teachers build students' conceptual understanding, so they can not only solve equations but also apply the same reasoning to real-world problems.

### BELOW

Third-grader Erin Parks focuses on her work at Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg.

### RIGHT

Meeting Street Academy – Charleston fourth grader Serenity Perkins scales the climbing wall at Camp Leopold in Pinewood, S.C.



## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# An anonymous gift

To celebrate his wife's 60th birthday, one anonymous donor invited friends to give to a cause they both cared deeply about: helping children experience the wonder of the outdoors. Together, they established the *Outdoor Excursions Fund* to create age-appropriate outdoor learning experiences for Meeting Street Academy – Charleston students. Friends gave generously, the couple matched their gifts, and nearly \$400,000 was raised, giving hundreds of students the chance to explore the world beyond their neighborhoods.



## 2 Enriching experiences

Students are encouraged to expand their horizons and find new passions through exposure to a range of opportunities. This includes field trips and enrichment experiences ranging from gardening to step team.

## 3 Family partnerships

Student success requires shared effort and a mutual commitment to supporting every child. Teachers and families have high expectations and ambitious goals for what's possible, and working together, they help students become the best versions of themselves.

## 4 Character development

Students learn the traits associated with becoming successful adults. The Path to Success involves lessons in gratitude, self-control, optimism, empathy, citizenship, grit, curiosity and integrity.

ABOVE  
Third-grader Reginald Riley works on an assignment at Meeting Street Elementary – Burns.



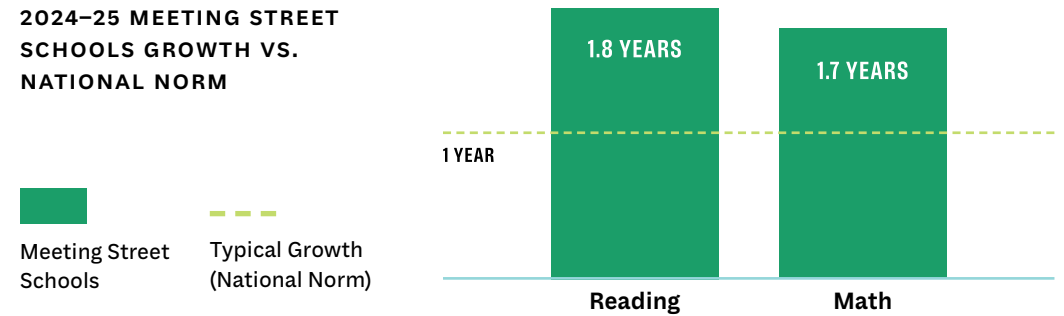
## J.H. Walker Legacy Foundation

Inspired by Meeting Street Schools' pursuit of excellence, the J.H. Walker Legacy Foundation has been a steadfast supporter for more than 10 years. The Foundation, led by founder Julie Walker, has helped students thrive through initiatives such as the Book Club and the WatotoAcademy of the Performing Arts.

# Our impact

Meeting Street Schools had one of its strongest years of academic growth on record in 2024–25.

2024–25 MEETING STREET SCHOOLS GROWTH VS. NATIONAL NORM



\$5.3M

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS EARNED BY MEETING STREET SCHOOLS ALUMNI IN GRADES 6–12

94%

AVERAGE DAILY STUDENT ATTENDANCE

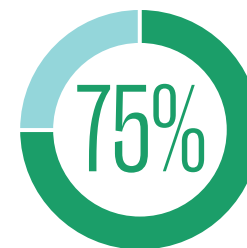
1,700

STUDENTS ENROLLED

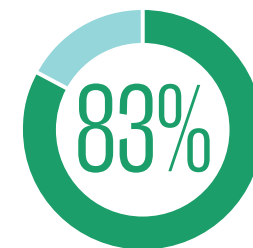
82%

STUDENTS WITH DEMONSTRATED FINANCIAL NEED

### MEETING STREET ACADEMY – CHARLESTON



75% OF ALUMNI EARNED ACCEPTANCE INTO A CHARTER, MAGNET OR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL



83% OF ALUMNI GO TO COLLEGE



Third-grader Ka'Deem Marion learns how to tell time at Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood.



## Boeing

Boeing has donated \$3.7 million over the last nine years to Meeting Street Elementary – Burns and Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood with the goal of increasing awareness of college and career pathways among under-resourced students. As a result, both schools raised the standard for quality instruction, and more students demonstrated academic growth.

### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

ABOVE  
Four year olds at Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood work on math.



# Meeting Street Scholarship Fund

The Meeting Street Scholarship Fund is an outgrowth of the work started in Meeting Street Schools. The Scholarship launched in 2021 to improve college affordability and access for hard-working students with demonstrated financial need.

**STUDENTS WHO MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA CAN EARN UP TO \$10,000 ANNUALLY:**

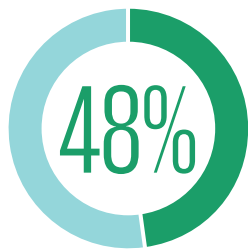
- Reside in an eligible county
- Graduate from a public high school
- Earn the LIFE or Palmetto Fellows Scholarship
- Submit FAFSA and qualify for a Federal Pell Grant
- Attend an in-state college with a graduation rate of 50 percent or higher



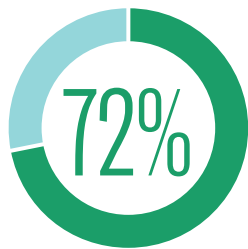
Scholarship recipient Indya Capers (right) is a Charleston County native majoring in nursing at the University of South Carolina.

# Our reach

The Meeting Street Scholarship is more than a check. It is a support network that helps high school students navigate the college admissions process and empowers students to thrive on campus by expecting excellence, building community, embracing challenges and seeking experience.



OF RECIPIENTS ARE FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS



MAINTAIN A 3.0 OR BETTER GPA

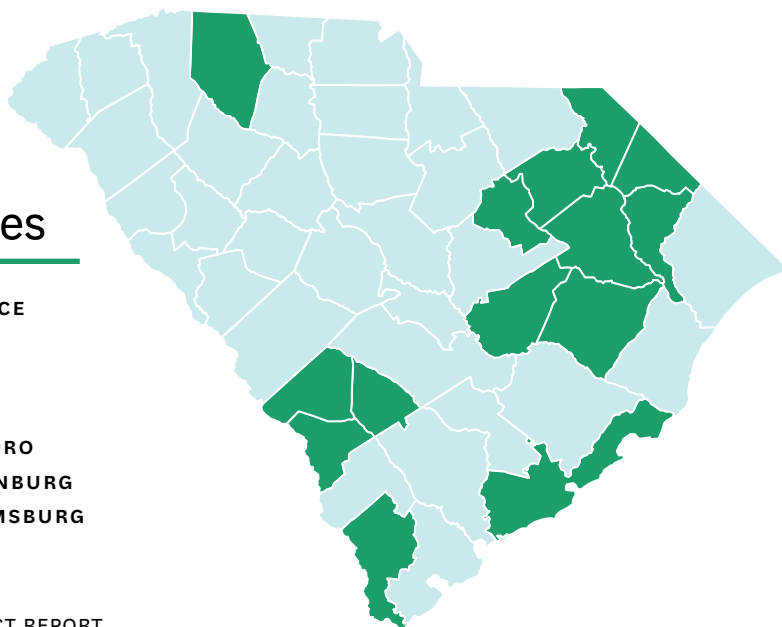
## Eligible colleges

- Anderson University
- Bob Jones University
- Claflin University
- Clemson University
- College of Charleston
- Columbia College
- Columbia International University
- Converse University
- Furman University
- Newberry College
- North Greenville University
- Presbyterian College
- Southern Wesleyan University
- The Citadel
- University of South Carolina – Columbia
- University of South Carolina – Upstate\*
- Winthrop University
- Wofford College

*\*To be eligible for the Meeting Street Scholarship at USC – Upstate, students must live in Spartanburg County.*

## Eligible counties

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| ALLENDALE  | FLORENCE     |
| BAMBERG    | JASPER       |
| BARNWELL   | LEE          |
| CHARLESTON | MARION       |
| CLARENDON  | MARLBORO     |
| DARLINGTON | SPARTANBURG  |
| DILLON     | WILLIAMSBURG |



### RECIPIENT SPOTLIGHT

## Allen Gomez

Allen Gomez graduated cum laude from Clemson University in May 2025 with a degree in biochemistry. The son of immigrants, he's the first in his family to earn a college diploma. Allen plans to go to medical school and become a surgeon. "I wouldn't be where I am now without the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund," he said.



## Our impact

**\$60M**  
COMMITTED TO STUDENTS

**1,500+**  
RECIPIENTS

**91%**  
GRADUATED OR ARE ON TRACK TO GRADUATE

**3.3**  
AVERAGE GPA

# Mission 46

The goal of our trailblazing campaign is to offer college scholarships to every eligible student in all 46 of South Carolina's counties.

Expanding statewide would cost roughly \$60 million annually at scale for nearly 2,500 new recipients each year.

## BELOW

The newest Scholarship recipients connect with one another and learn tips for college success at the annual Celebration Summit.



## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

- Ben & Kelly Navarro
- Darla Moore Foundation
- Jessica & Todd Aaron
- Dave Proctor
- Susu and George Dean Johnson, Jr.
- Doug Buckminster
- Anonymous

# Susu and George Dean Johnson, Jr.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT



Philanthropists Susu and George Dean Johnson, Jr. have supported their native Spartanburg for years. In November 2024, the Johnsons announced their decision to expand the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund to all of Spartanburg County. Their gift marked a milestone moment for the Scholarship. About 200 students annually are expected to earn the Scholarship in Spartanburg.

ABOVE  
The Johnsons sponsor all eligible students in Spartanburg County.

Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood first-grade teacher Skylette Scott is a two-time recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Awards.



# Excellence in Teaching Awards

Teachers are the center of our education work, and excellent teachers deserve excellent pay. Each year, the Excellence in Teaching Awards honors those who made the biggest impact on students' growth and proficiency.

- The average performance award was \$8,800, with individual bonuses of up to \$57,250 for our highest performing teacher.
- The program started in 2021 in Meeting Street Schools and by 2024–25, it had expanded to all 22 of Charleston County's highest needs elementary schools.
- This innovative model of teacher compensation has spread across South Carolina to a total of 39 schools, in part because of a \$5 million pilot commitment from the state.

★ **Excellence in Teaching**  
AWARDS

# Our reach

## 39 participating schools

### Meeting Street Schools

Meeting Street Academy – Charleston  
 Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg  
 Meeting Street Elementary – Burns  
 Meeting Street Elementary & Middle – Brentwood

### Charleston County School District

A. C. Corcoran Elementary School  
 Charleston Progressive Academy  
 Chicora Elementary School  
 E. B. Ellington Elementary School  
 Edith L. Frierson Montessori School  
 Hunley Park Elementary School  
 Jane Edwards Elementary School  
 Ladson Elementary School  
 Mary Ford Early Learning and Family Center  
 Matilda F. Dunston Elementary School  
 Minnie Hughes Elementary School  
 Mitchell Elementary School  
 Mt. Zion Elementary School  
 North Charleston Creative Arts Elementary School  
 North Charleston Elementary School  
 Pepperhill Elementary School  
 Pinehurst Elementary School  
 Sanders-Clyde Elementary School  
 Springfield Elementary School  
 St. James-Santee Elementary-Middle School  
 Stono Park Elementary School  
 W.B. Goodwin Elementary School

### Legacy Early College

Legacy Early College – Elementary  
 Legacy Early College – Middle  
 Legacy Early College – High

### South Carolina Department of Education

Allendale-Fairfax Elementary School  
 Allendale-Fairfax Middle School  
 Bells Elementary  
 College Park Middle School  
 Estill Middle School  
 Gray Collegiate Academy  
 Hannah-Pamplico Elementary | Middle  
 Newberry Middle School  
 New Prospect Elementary School  
 Seven Oaks Elementary School Media Magnet

**696** PARTICIPATING  
TEACHERS, OF  
WHICH 76 PERCENT  
RECEIVED AWARDS

**\$8,800** AVERAGE  
AWARD  
IN SOUTH  
CAROLINA

**\$4.6M** TOTAL AWARDS  
FOR 2024-25  
SCHOOL YEAR

**\$10.7M** TOTAL  
AWARDS  
TO DATE

# Our impact

- In reading, students of the top 20 percent of Excellence in Teaching Awards winners achieved roughly 2 years of growth during the 2024-25 school year. The overall proficiency of their classrooms also increased from 33 to 53 percent.
- In math, students of the top 20 percent of Excellence in Teaching Awards winners achieved roughly 1.9 years of growth during the 2024-25 school year. The overall proficiency of their classrooms also increased from 26 to 57 percent.

**BELOW**  
 Meeting Street  
 Elementary &  
 Middle – Brentwood  
 kindergarten teacher  
 Hailey Piscatelli is a  
 three-time recipient  
 of the Excellence  
 in Teaching Awards.



### TEACHER SPOTLIGHT



Knowing that I am going to be recognized for the hard work and dedication I show toward getting my students to meet their goals is rewarding. It has made a difference in my professional life because it makes me not want to leave Meeting Street because I know I am valued and appreciated. In my personal life, it has improved my life greatly. I am now able to put money away for a house and it helped pay for my wedding.

— Hailey Piscatelli



#### MAKE A DIFFERENCE

## Join us in empowering students

Every gift of time, talent or treasure helps unlock opportunity for students and educators across the Beemok Education portfolio. Your involvement creates real impact and helps prove what's possible when we invest in children, families and educators. Opportunities include:

- Be a mentor and volunteer to support Meeting Street Schools' students one-on-one.
- Expand enrichment opportunities by investing in after-school or wellness activities.
- Make college possible by supporting the Meeting Street Scholarship Fund.
- Offer career exposure by hosting student visits at your business or by speaking to students about your profession.
- Celebrate great teaching by contributing to the Excellence in Teaching Awards.
- Refer ambitious, mission-aligned recent graduates to our Teaching Fellows program.
- Bring history to life by supporting field trips to places such as Boston, Washington, D.C., or Philadelphia.

#### CONNECT WITH US

Schedule a school visit or start a conversation with Beemok Education President Josh Bell at [jbelle@meetingstreetschools.org](mailto:jbelle@meetingstreetschools.org).

**ABOVE**  
Meeting Street Academy – Spartanburg fifth graders smile with pride and anticipation during their graduation ceremony.



**Empowering  
*with* education**