



# Barnwell School District 45

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**BSD45 Lead School Psychologist Awarded *Mental Health Practitioner Grant***

Barnwell, S.C., March 18, 2022 – Barnwell School District 45 (BSD45) recently recognized Lead School Psychologist George McIntosh for receiving the *Mental Health Practitioner Grant* from the Children's Fund of School Psychology, Inc. (CFSP) for Barnwell Elementary School.

According to their mission, one of the main purposes of the CFSP is to provide grants in support of projects that benefit children and families. When awarding grants, CFSP looks for projects that promote the physical and emotional well-being of all children and support effective interventions that address both learning and social/emotional functioning to enhance a child's success.

Specifically, *Mental Health Practitioner Grants* are intended to encourage practicing school psychologists (and interns in school psychology) to enhance their own capabilities to provide mental health services within their schools. The funds were used to purchase numerous counseling materials which ranged from cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) based activities/programs to a trauma-informed social-emotional toolbox. Starting in the month of March, Mr. McIntosh will begin utilizing the purchased materials from this fund to begin implementing an evidence-based counseling program with students at Barnwell Elementary School. Other materials purchased with this fund will also be utilized to support individualized needs of each student participating within the program. According to Mr. McIntosh, "This program will focus on teaching students how to manage worry, anxiety, stress, and avoidance. By collaborating with teachers and parents, the overall goal will be to teach students how to identify, regulate, and cope with anxiety."



"I am grateful we have staff members like George McIntosh who have such a passion to make a difference in the lives of our students," shared BSD45 Superintendent Crissie Stapleton. "Especially given the recent circumstances of the pandemic, we know social-emotional well-being is a focus across the nation. Being able to have Mr. McIntosh use his talents to help our students is wonderful for Barnwell School District 45."