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Who We Are

Charlottesville United for Public Education is a coalition of parents, grandparents, and community members committed to ensuring every child in Charlottesville City Schools receives a quality education. We advocate for student success from preschool to graduation through community engagement, family support and civic participation. As champions united for healthy students and schools, we center community voices and welcome all who are invested in making public education better in Charlottesville.

Our Mission

To advocate for public education that meets the needs of every child and family, while centering Black, Brown, and other marginalized voices.

Our Vision

Charlottesville City Schools serves as a model for centering the needs of students and families through informed, strategic, transformative change that meets the needs of each child and the collective, as demonstrated by a closed achievement gap, record matriculation and strong school/home partnerships.

Our Values

- **Voices**: Centering, uplifting and amplifying the voices of those who are most marginalized.
- **Youth**: Young people should be seen, heard, and listened to; their ideas thoughts and passions will help to guide our work.
- **Educators**: We support all educators from bus drivers to teachers and paraprofessionals. Everyone employed by the school system works together to create a safe, effective learning environment.
- **Collective Action**: Understanding that it takes all of us to change the ecosystem in which our schools exist, in order to create the best educational environment for all.
• **Community of Care:** Through personal and communal relationships, we can heal students, families, educators, and community members by supporting their needs and creating a space of explicit belonging.

• **Transformative Healing:** We seek to transform the way in which the school system is currently supported in order to bring forth healing from past harms through different ways of thinking and being.

• **Growth:** We understand where we have been and where we are, and seek to create a fertile environment for hope and possibility that keeps us all focused on the assets of the community, while meeting the deficits head on.

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**Our Community Organizer**

In 2022, we hired a community organizer! Sandra Aviles has been hitting the streets to hear from constituents, families and community partners. She attended training at The Midwest Academy with a focus on organizing for social and racial justice, and she is putting what she learned into action. To date she has held or been a part of close to 80 meetings, liaised with more than 50 parents, guardians and other caring adults and even spoken with a class at Charlottesville High School. You can find her at every Walker/Buford PTO meeting, as well as school board and city council meetings, where she watches, takes notes and makes public comments. Sandra has forged strong partnerships with The Equity Center at UVA, The Community Solutions Law Clinic, and other UVA entities and has even been selected as an ambassador for the Charlottesville City Schools 2023-2029 Strategic Planning Committee, where she and others are working to establish an equitable foundation for the division.

"I am committed to helping to build a school system that works for all."

Sandra Aviles
Our Advisory Committee

Shaniece Bradford (ReadyKids, future CCS parent)
Nancy Deutsch (CCS parent)
Marcelle Eldridge (CCS parent)
Harold Folley (Legal Aid Justice Center)
Maggie Howe (Future CCS parent)
Brian Johns (Virginia Organizing)
Sherica Jones-Lewis (CCS parent)
Karin Little (CCS parent)
Arielle O'Shea (CCS parent)
Gabe Schneider (CCS parent)
Annie Suttle (CCS parent)
Frank Valdez (Legal Aid Justice Center)

Former Advisory Committee Members:
Mary Coleman, Shymora Cooper, Holly Hatcher, Chris Meyer
What We Achieved

APPLAUSE + GRATITUDE FOR 2023. CHEERS TO 2024!

HOW YOU CAN HELP CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
MENTOR
SUPPORT
VOLUNTEER
SUBSTITUTE
ADVOCATE
ENGAGE
SPREAD AWARENESS

Charlottesville United for Public Education
charlottesvilleunited.org/CCschool
### Our impact in numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>160 meetings with various stakeholder groups</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These events/meetings include Fund Our Schools Lobby Day and Rally on February 19th in Richmond, Virginia. Sandra was a featured speaker on behalf of Charlottesville United in a concerted effort to elevate the issue of investing in education within the local community and beyond.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Through meetings with legislators, grassroots organizing, and public awareness campaigns, the event aimed to highlight the urgent need for greater investment in schools to ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.</td>
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<th>$68,600 raised in funds</th>
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<td>This school year we received generous funding from community organizations and individual donors, including the Gene &amp; Anne Worrell Foundation, Bamaworks, Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, and the Leg Up Foundation.</td>
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<th>629 Social media following</th>
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<tr>
<td>We are continuing to grow our social media presence and email list, with 629 followers across our 3 main social media platforms and 364 email subscribers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We use this list to communicate crucial information that often is not otherwise communicated effectively, allowing the community to provide feedback.</td>
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Our impact within the community

Building relationships with aligned organizations

Rise for Youth, a Virginia-based non-profit that focuses on youth-based advocacy and justice. Through a partnership with Rise, The Equity Center at UVA, Charlottesville United, The Legal Aid Justice Center, and The Public Housing Association of Residents. At its core, this event sought to amplify the voices of young people and address the systemic issues that impact their lives. Youth had the opportunity to speak to two school board members about what they liked, did not like and would change in the local school system.

Elevating the need to invest in our schools

Our community organizer, Sandra Aviles was a featured speaker at The Fund Our Schools Lobby Day and Rally on February 19th, 2024 in Richmond, Virginia. Sandra spoke on behalf of Charlottesville United in a concerted effort to elevate the issue of investing in education within the local community and beyond. Through meetings with legislators, grassroots organizing, and public awareness campaigns, the event aimed to highlight the urgent need for greater investment in schools to ensure equitable access to quality education for all students.
Upon hearing community needs, and being contacted by a group of concerned teachers and parents at Charlottesville High School, Charlottesville United helped to plan and execute a Listening Session. The session was moderated by our community organizer, Sandra Aviles and was a vital platform for building capacity within the community by fostering open dialogue and mutual understanding. By creating space for diverse voices to be heard and respected, the listening session aimed to strengthen community bonds, cultivate empathy, and empower individuals and organizations to take collaborative action towards building a more inclusive and equitable community for all.

We also streamed the listening session across various platforms, and it currently has almost 1,900 views on YouTube.
What We Envision

Over the next several years, we will continue to lift school community voices, focus our attention on the most urgent needs and advocate for ongoing, deep investment in student success. Specifically, with the support of generous funders, Charlottesville United plans to recruit additional supporters and partners, develop parent leaders and community engagers to expand our community engager program across Charlottesville City Schools, hold CCS and the school board accountable for consistently and proactively engaging the entire school community, ensure adequate investments at the local level during annual budget cycles, establish, with community input, priorities for education advocacy, and continue to host and attend community events.

Supplementary Documents

Our Priorities  Become a Community Engager  News & Events

Contact Us

For further information, please reach out to us at charlottesvilleunited@gmail.com.

Want to get involved? We are looking for community members to join our committees, support our efforts financially and provide input for strategic initiatives. Your lived experience as a parent and member of the community is what qualifies you to join us.

Website: www.charlottesvilleunited.org