



## Aiken County Public School District

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For Immediate Release

### DISTRICT PLEASED WITH EARLY SALES TAX "COLLECTIONS"

In November 2014, Aiken County citizens voted in support of the Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax to address facility construction of Aiken County's aging schools. This additional 1% sales tax took effect on March 1, 2015. Aiken County Public Schools' Comptroller Mr. Tray Traxler calls the early sales tax collections "promising."

The District utilized conservative sales tax projections provided by the South Carolina Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office for planning purposes and as required by the enabling legislation. The Revenue & Fiscal Affairs Office projected \$188,639,040 over the life of the ten year, 120-month collection period. The first quarter collections were stronger than projected.

"Economic development throughout the county such as North Augusta's Scuttle Island Water Park, with an estimated 250,000 visitors per year," Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford remarked, "will generate additional sales tax revenue. We're cautiously optimistic that collections will continue trending upwards, meeting or exceeding what was projected, in support of schools."

In celebration of the one year anniversary of the passed sales tax referendum, Aiken County Public Schools will present a Sales Tax Update to the community on Thursday, November 5. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster, Comptroller Mr. Tray Traxler and others will speak on construction plans, the progress of sales tax collections, the Community Oversight Committee and more.

Advisory Council-hosted virtual meetings are being held throughout the county, incorporating a live broadcast from the District Office. The community is invited to mark the anniversary of their increased investment in public education at a location most convenient: The District Office in Aiken, Midland Valley High School in Graniteville, North Augusta High School in North Augusta, Ridge Spring-Monetta High School in Monetta, Silver Bluff High School in Beech Island/Jackson and Wagener-Salley High School in Wagener.

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