



MEDIA RELEASE

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HARDEEVILLE, SC – Yesterday afternoon, Royal Live Oaks Academy of the Arts and Sciences Charter School (RLOACS) received the Charter Institute at Erskine 2021-2022 Local School of Distinction award for all three of its grade level programs. Members of the Charter Institute at Erskine’s staff and leadership were in attendance and presented the school’s leaders with commemorative plaques. They also recognized a RLOACS student who earned a perfect score on the SC Ready Math Test in the 2021-2022 school year.

“It’s important for children to see how there are celebrations when they do well,” says Dr. Karen Wicks, executive director of RLOACS. “It’s important for those who teach them to know that their hard work is paying off, as well. And then of course for the administration - we put so much into trying to provide the right support systems and the right structures. It means a lot to us.”

The Local School of Distinction award recognizes schools for outperforming their local school districts. RLOACS’ Elementary School program was named a Gold School of Distinction, meaning that it outperformed the local district and demonstrated above average growth in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. RLOACS’ Middle School program was named a Platinum School of Distinction, meaning that it outperformed the local district and demonstrated significantly above average growth in ELA and Math. Finally, RLOACS’ High School program was named a Bronze School of Distinction, meaning that it outperformed the local district.

[Royal Live Oaks Academy of the Arts & Sciences](#) is a K-12 public charter school located in Jasper County that uses project-based learning to highlight the importance of critical thinking and problem solving. RLOACS is authorized through the Charter Institute at Erskine.

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The Charter Institute at Erskine is the fastest-growing school district in South Carolina. Serving 24 schools and 24,000 students across the state, the Charter Institute at Erskine is committed to innovative, creative, high-quality methods of education. For more information about the Institute, please visit www.erskinecharters.org.



Leadership from both the Charter Institute at Erskine and Royal Live Oaks Academy.



Institute Director, Vamshi Rudrapati, with Dr. Karen Wicks, the Executive Director of RLOACS.



Institute Executive Deputy Superintendent of Innovation and Accountability, Rich Melzer, with RLOACS student Michael Harman.



Mr. Rich Melzer presents plaques to RLOACS Elementary, Middle, and High school principals.