

**Friday, January 5, 2018 statement from Kimberly A. Hill, Ed.D., Superintendent,
Charles County Public Schools**

I am thankful that a plea agreement has been reached between the Charles County State's Attorney's Office and Carlos Bell, a former Charles County Public Schools employee. This plea agreement holds Mr. Bell accountable without a trial which could cause further trauma to the victims, many of whom are our students.

We have cooperated fully with Charles County State's Attorney's Office as well as the Charles County Sheriff's Office throughout the investigation. I want to thank both agencies for the work they have done to close this case and to ensure that this individual is held accountable for his actions.

Since learning of the charges against Mr. Bell, we have focused on supporting the students affected by his actions. The school system continues to work with the Center for Children to provide that support and further training for our staff.

We remain committed to ensuring every student is able to learn in a healthy, safe environment in Charles County Public Schools.