

For Immediate Release

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RRHA ANNOUNCES SALE OF PROPERTY TO ANNA JULIA COOPER SCHOOL – Expanding Educational Opportunities in Richmond's East End

Media Announcement Event: Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10 a.m. Location: 2124 N. 29th St. Richmond VA

RICHMOND, VA-- The Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) announces the sale of the property at 2124 N. 29th Street to Anna Julia Cooper School (AJC), marking a significant milestone in a longstanding partnership focused on expanding access to high-quality educational opportunities for families in Richmond's East End.

A media announcement event will be held Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Anna Julia Cooper Lower School playground area at 2124 N. 29th Street, Richmond VA 23223.

Since its founding in 2009, AJC has worked closely with RRHA to serve students and families, many of whom live in RRHA's public housing communities. Through that partnership, including leasing the building to AJC at a favorable rate and now transferring ownership at a significantly below-market price, it underscores RRHA's bold commitment to expanding access to quality education. As a result, AJC has grown from serving just 25 students to more than 200 today, while remaining rooted in its mission to love, educate, and uplift every child it serves. That commitment to students and families from RRHA communities remains central to its work.

"Access to high-quality education is one of the most critical needs for families in our communities," said Steven Nesmith, CEO of RRHA. "Our partnership with the Anna Julia Cooper School helps meet that need—creating opportunities for students to succeed and thrive. This milestone reflects our shared commitment to investing in our residents and building a stronger future for their children."

The transaction ensures that the property will remain a community-centered educational asset. As AJC completes construction of its new Lower School building, the 2124 N. 29th Street site will continue to serve families in RRHA communities, with plans underway to expand early childhood learning opportunities in partnership with community providers—further strengthening the continuum of support for children and families.

"This is a meaningful moment for our school," said Mike Maruca, Head of School at AJC. "We are deeply grateful to RRHA for their partnership over many years. Their support made it possible for AJC to grow and to serve hundreds of students. This next step allows us to build on that strong foundation and continue expanding what's possible for the children and families we serve."

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ABOUT AJC: The Anna Julia Cooper School is a tuition-free, independent school in Richmond's East End, dedicated to uplifting students and graduates through an education founded on love. Serving students in grades K–8 from low-income families—most of whom live in public housing—AJC has become a beacon of hope in the community. Rooted in a belief that education is built on relationships, the school nurtures each student's gifts within a close-knit community of affection that includes students, teachers, donors, and volunteers.

"Building Communities. Changing Lives." is the vision of the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority. RRHA is Virginia's largest public housing authority serving over 10,000 residents and managing nearly 4,000 units through the public housing program. RRHA provides subsidized housing assistance to more than 3,000 families and is a catalyst for quality affordable housing and community revitalization. For more information about RRHA programs and objectives, visit rrha.com, [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter), [LinkedIn](#), or [Instagram](#).

