



NEWS RELEASE

News from Orange County Public Schools

OCPS is awarded most improved in the statewide FAFSA Challenge

Orange County seniors received \$5.5 million more in Pell Grants over last year

April 21, 2017 – Orange County Public Schools is celebrating its most improved award in the 2017 Florida FAFSA Challenge. The challenge was introduced by the Florida College Access Network (Florida CAN) to increase the proportion of high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. **Orange County seniors exceeded last year’s Pell Grant award amount by \$5.5 million.**

Through March 31, all 19 high schools in Orange County Public Schools had increased its number of applications by more than five percent. In fact, Orange County grabbed the top seven spots for most improved in the state.

Rank	High School	12 th graders applying	FAFSA rate 4-1-2016	FAFSA rate 4-1-2017	Change (%)
1	Boone	679	29.8%	55.2%	25.5%
2	Cypress Creek	802	22.6%	46.5%	23.9%
3	Timber Creek	826	31.5%	53.4%	21.9%
4	University	692	25.1%	46.7%	21.6%
5	East River	427	19.4%	40.3%	20.9%
6	Ocoee	521	24.9%	45.1%	20.2%
7	Oak Ridge	634	16.5%	36.6%	20.1%

The district came in third for highest completion rate in the state while Boone and Timber Creek high schools were among the top ten in highest completion rate. They came in third and sixth in the state.

Superintendent Barbara Jenkins said, “We are very pleased about the increase. It is the result of an intense focus on student achievement by our college and career counselors in every high school and the commitment of our principals and staff to lead our students to success.”

The Florida FAFSA Challenge is part of [College Ready Florida](#), a suite of statewide initiatives designed to build a college-going culture and help all students — especially low-income students — continue their educations beyond high school.

(For more information, please contact Media Promotions at 407.317.3458)

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