

Orange County Public Schools 2020-21 Research Agenda

Orange County Public Schools (OCPS) is located in Orlando, Florida and is the 8th largest district in the nation. OCPS leads over 200,000¹ students to success with the support of families and the community. The Research and Evaluation department continues to seek partnerships with various research entities and encourages rigorous research projects that match the district’s priorities.

The table below displays the OCPS major research topics during the 2020-21 school year aligned to the following OCPS 2025 Strategic Plan objectives:

- High Expectations for Student Learning
- Student Social and Emotional Well-Being
- Dedicated and High-Quality Team
- Positive Climate and Safe Environment
- Efficient Operations
- Engaged and Invested Community

Research Topics	Strategic Objectives				
Successful strategies and practices to narrow the achievement gap , specifically in English Language Arts and Mathematics	●				
Literacy (especially for students in secondary who struggle with reading and writing)	●				
Comparison study of the impact of different instructional models (e.g., face-to-face, Innovative OCPS LaunchED@Home, and Orange County Virtual School) on student achievement	●	●	●	●	
Strategies to improve students' social and emotional learning (SEL) skills		●			
The impact of COVID on academic achievement, overall and by subgroup	●				
Best practices to improve school climate	●				
Recruitment and retention , especially for low performing schools	●				
Effectiveness of professional development opportunities			●		
Teacher effectiveness in improving student achievement			●		
Interventions and supports for mental health issues		●		●	
Elementary and middle school acceleration	●				
Impact of retention versus COVID Slide related to emotional and social impacts of retaining children	●	●			
Dual language proficiency/acceleration strategies	●				
Early childhood (PreK, VPK) and school readiness	●				
Best practices to enhance the efficacy of programs in the Minority Achievement Office	●				
Dropout prevention and graduation promotion	●				
Relationship between the amount of time online and academic achievement (e.g., weekly)	●		●		
Best practices for family engagement					●

¹ The total enrollment for the 2020-21 school year as of 09/03/2020 is 212,216.