



Orange County Public Schools 2019-20 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 and involvement of families and the community. We continue to seek partnerships with various research entities and encourage rigorous research projects that match our priorities.

1. Academic achievement and college and career readiness
 - Literacy, especially for students in secondary who struggle with reading and writing
 - Successful strategies and practices to narrow the achievement gap, specifically in English Language Arts and mathematics
 - Quality of assessments
 - Longitudinal analysis of early warning indicators (e.g., retention at different grade levels)
 - Dropout prevention and graduation promotion
 - Elementary and middle school acceleration
 - Long-term impacts of rigorous coursework (e.g., Advanced Placement)
 - Access to college courses and college enrollment
 - School administrators' impact on student achievement
2. Social-emotional learning, mental health, and school safety
 - Best practices to improve school climate
 - Strategies to improve students' social and emotional learning (SEL) skills (e.g., grit)
 - Strategies to reduce student discipline incidents
 - Interventions and supports on mental health issues
3. Teacher and administrator pipeline
 - Validity, reliability, and impacts of teacher evaluation systems
 - Professional development and advancement (e.g., via the use of evaluation data)
 - Recruitment and retention
 - Incentives for OCPS graduates to return and teach in OCPS
 - University-based teacher preparation programs and magnet programs that focus on education (i.e., preparing students to become teachers)
 - Succession planning and leadership preparation
4. Highlighting OCPS successes (e.g., case study) and replication feasibility
 - Impact of Strategic Planning
 - Strengthening customer service
 - Reducing the achievement gap
 - Increasing graduation rates

¹ The total enrollment for the 2019-20 school year is projected to be 215,703, which includes the projected increase of an estimated 4,000 students of this year.