



# PARENT GUIDE

2020-2021



**Orange County  
Public Schools**





Academics

## TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Every teacher shall provide to the Employment Services Department a valid Florida or District teaching certificate, or evidence of having qualified and applied for one within forty (40) duty days following initial employment, except as provided by Florida Statutes. Currently, schools notify parents whose children may be in the classroom with a teacher who is teaching out of the field of their certification. To continue teaching in out-of-field subject areas, teachers must take yearly courses or the appropriate subject area exams. You may learn more about this by contacting your school principal.

## DIGITAL LEARNING

**Skyward Family Access:** This is where parents and students can view important information about a student's educational progress. Parents and students can access Skyward using LaunchPad. Parents must first register for an account before they can use LaunchPad at <http://parents.classlink.com/ocps>. LaunchPad is essentially a portal site that provides automated access to different OCPS systems that parents and guardians utilize such as Canvas. The registration process for LaunchPad uses your mobile phone number or email address that you have on file with the school in our student information system. Once registered, visit <http://parents.classlink.com/ocps> to login and access your account. The Skyward (parents) icon on LaunchPad provides access to the following information:

Skyward	Canvas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Calendar</li><li>Gradebook</li><li>Attendance</li><li>Student info</li><li>Schedule</li><li>Discipline</li><li>Test Scores</li><li>Activities</li><li>Student Services</li><li>Academic history</li><li>Portofolio</li><li>Health info</li><li>Login history</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Test scores</li><li>Online assignments</li><li>Online planner</li></ul>

**LaunchPad for Students:** Students can visit our district's Single Sign On dashboard, LaunchPad, at <http://launchpad.ocps.net> to access instructional software, digital textbooks and more. LaunchPad can be accessed on any device with an internet connection, including laptops, desktops, tablets and smartphones. Through LaunchPad, students are provided accounts to the following types of resources:

Online Textbooks	Productivity	Instructional Resources	Library Research Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cengage</li> <li>● eDynamic</li> <li>● EMC</li> <li>● HMH</li> <li>● McGraw Hill</li> <li>● Pasco</li> <li>● Pearson</li> <li>● Spring Board</li> <li>● Studies Weekly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BigBlueButton</li> <li>● Canvas</li> <li>● Google Drive</li> <li>● Microsoft Teams Meetings</li> <li>● Skyward</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beanstack</li> <li>● BrainPop</li> <li>● CK-12</li> <li>● DefinedSTEM</li> <li>● Discovery Education</li> <li>● Edgenuity</li> <li>● Gizmos</li> <li>● iReady</li> <li>● Khan Academy</li> <li>● Math Nation</li> <li>● Nearpod</li> <li>● Newsela</li> <li>● PBS Learning Media</li> <li>● Reading A-Z</li> <li>● Reflex Math</li> <li>● Study Island (5th grade science)</li> <li>● Typing Club</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Destiny Discover</li> <li>● Florida Electronic Library</li> <li>● Orange County Library System Virtual Library Card</li> <li>● WeStar Music</li> </ul>

**My Backpack icon on LaunchPad:** Once logged into LaunchPad, your child can access all of his/her textbooks connected to his/her schedule. No more trying to figure out which icon goes with each course.

**LaunchED:** The LaunchED digital learning program provides digital learning devices such as laptops or tablets to all staff and K-12 students. Students can request technical help with their district-provided device by submitting a ticket at <https://techrequest.ocps.net>.

The district-provided devices are used in a blended learning environment, where students attend traditional brick-and-mortar schools for at least a portion of their coursework but utilize digital content such as online textbooks and digital tools such as G Suite for Education to personalize their learning environment. Visit <https://digital.ocps.net> to learn more about the LaunchED Digital Learning Program and access the Family Technology Handbook.

Important digital platforms are available to OCPS families. They are the main portals to our digital classrooms:

**G Suite for Education:** This is where students create, collaborate and store files. This is also where students send and receive emails from teachers and students. Students can access their OCPS Google account on any device.

**LanSchool:** This classroom management software allows teachers to monitor, collaborate and communicate with students.

**Canvas:** This is the district's learning management system and the hub of the digital classroom. Students can visit Canvas to check their calendar for upcoming due dates, access course materials and submit assignments. Parents can access Canvas using LaunchPad or using the Canvas Parent app for iOS, Android or Windows on a mobile device to keep up with their student's calendar and assignments.



## **HONORS COURSES**

Honors-designated courses at the middle- and high-school levels are designed to provide students with rigorous learning experiences in preparation for collegiate experiences.

### **Advanced Placement (AP)**

Advanced Placement (AP) courses enable students to experience college-level coursework in a high school setting. AP courses encourage a hands-on approach to learning and provide learning opportunities in preparation for college and beyond. By participating in college-level work in high school, students can push themselves and take risks in a familiar setting, take advantage of smaller class sizes, and have access to onsite tutoring and support, while also gaining academic confidence and a rewarding experience. Students have the opportunity to earn college credit with a passing score on AP course exams. Each school offers a variety of AP classes that align with students' interests and plans for the future.

### **International Baccalaureate (IB)**

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program is a rigorous pre-university course of study, leading to international standardized tests. The program's comprehensive two-year curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill the requirements of various nations' education systems. Students enrolled in the district IB Diploma Programs at Cypress Creek, Evans, Jones, University and Winter Park high schools are eligible for college credit based on scores achieved on IB exams. Cypress Creek, Evans, Jones and University high schools have district IB magnet programs.

### **Cambridge AICE**

The Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) program is a rigorous pre-university course of study leading to internationally standardized tests. AICE's comprehensive curriculum allows its graduates to fulfill the requirements of an international program of study. Students enrolled in the district Cambridge AICE program at Colonial, East River, Ocoee, Wekiva and Windermere high schools are eligible for college credit based on scores achieved on AICE examinations. Colonial High School has a district Cambridge AICE magnet program.

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

OCPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) strives for one common goal throughout our secondary and post-secondary programs: changing lives through education. This goal is achievable through industry-based, high-skill training programs designed to prepare all students for the future they have always imagined. It is critical to provide students with both the academic and technical instruction needed for success in today's workplace.

### **High School Career and Technical Education Programs**

Every OCPS high school has career and technical education courses that help students learn career-related skills, achieve industry certifications and earn articulated college credit – all from their home high school, as well as on Orange Technical College (OTC) campuses. CTE courses prepare students for a career in their field of interest through industry-based curriculum, highly qualified teachers and modern equipment currently used in the field. There are many career fields to explore within OCPS high schools, including gaming & simulation; multimedia design; construction; manufacturing; health care; automotive; and more. Please visit the career specialist on your child's high school campus for more information.

### **Orange Technical College Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment offered through OTC allows students to immerse themselves in their chosen field by enrolling in technical college classes while remaining enrolled at their home high school. With cutting-edge programs in a variety of growing career fields, every student is one

step away from finding his/her passion in life and gaining valuable work-related experience – all before he/she graduates from high school. Dual enrollment programs may be offered on the high school campus or may require students to spend half of the school day at an OTC campus. There is no tuition cost to the student to participate in dual-enrollment courses.

### **NAF Academies**

NAF Academies utilize a high school career academy model to prepare students for post-secondary education while providing them with the skills and experience necessary to attain entry-level jobs. Academy students participate in work-based learning opportunities that lead to high school internship experiences. NAF Academies are organized around one of five career themes: Finance, Hospitality & Tourism, Information Technology, Health Sciences and Engineering. An important part of this initiative is engagement of industry partners; locally some of our partners include Raymond James & Associates; Charles Schwab; Robert Half; Addition Financial; KPMG; SunTrust Bank; AAA Travel; Visit Orlando; Orlando World Center Marriott; Universal Orlando; Lockheed Martin; NASA; Orlando Health; and AT&T.

### **Youth Apprenticeships**

Youth apprenticeship programs in the Academy of Construction Technology are two-year programs that are great ways to explore careers in construction. These in-depth, hands-on trainings offer an overview of a variety of trades (masonry, carpentry, HVAC, electrical, plumbing) and related instruction to emphasize the qualifications and skills needed for each trade. Career-entry advice, and emphasis on the importance of succeeding in school and in the workforce, are included benefits. Youth apprentices also are given the opportunity to interview with one of 50 industry contractors for a summer on-the-job-training experience.


### **Orange Technical College**

OCPS is home to five technical college campuses (Avalon, Mid Florida, Orlando, Westside and Winter Park), collectively known as Orange Technical College (OTC), which offers career certificate training programs that feature affordable tuition, highly qualified instructors and a real-world curriculum. OTC serves as a gateway to careers in health science; information technology; transportation; audio/video technologies; manufacturing; hospitality; tourism; and much more. OTC is also the leading provider of adult general education and ESOL (English as a Second Language) training in Central Florida. The interactive classrooms and simulated work environments provide students with hands-on experiences that build the confidence to succeed in the workplace.

### **OCPS Tech Express to Valencia College**

After completing a qualified program at OTC, students can apply for earned credits toward completing an associate in Science degree at Valencia College. Graduates who hold both a career certificate and an A.S. degree can increase career options and earnings potential. Tech Express to Valencia advisors can be found at each OTC campus, helping guide students through their educational journey.





# Guidance and Academic Advisement



## **STUDENT PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION**

Each student's progression to the next grade level is determined by proficiency in reading, writing, science and mathematics, including specific levels of performance on statewide assessments at selected grade levels, if administered. Retention decisions are based on more than a single test score. Students who do not meet these performance levels must receive remediation or be retained within an intensive program that is different from the prior-year's program. For retained students in all grades, subsequent during-year promotion is permitted if performance requirements are met. The principal has the responsibility for all final decisions regarding initial placement, non promotion and promotion with remediation. Decisions will be based on the instructional needs of the child.

Students entering third grade in 2020-2021 will be required to achieve a Level 2 or higher on the statewide, standardized English Language Arts (ELA) assessment for Grade 3 in order to meet promotion requirements. The score will be determined in the spring, ensuring that students are appropriately identified for retention or promotion. Students not meeting this criteria may still meet promotion requirements through one-of-six good-cause exemptions.

For grades 4 and 5, if a student does not achieve a Level 2 or higher on the ELA Florida Standards Assessment, the student may be retained. However, students who score a Level 1 may be promoted if they successfully meet specific criteria that provides evidence of proficiency in reading. This criteria is provided to the schools each year in the spring.

To be promoted in grades 6 through 8, middle school students will be required to successfully pass the equivalent of four full-year courses, three of which must be from the areas of ELA, mathematics, science and social studies. Per state law, an eighth-grade student is required to pass three courses in ELA, mathematics, science and social studies (one semester of which must include civics education) in order to be promoted to high school. In addition, a state-approved, standalone, or integrated course to meet the career and education planning requirement must be completed.

Students entering 10th grade and/or taking Algebra 1 in 2020-21 will be required to achieve a certain passing score on the respective 10th grade ELA test and the Algebra 1 assessment in order to meet graduation requirements. These students will have the opportunity to retake this assessment if needed. Students also must earn a grade point average of a 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earn the appropriate course credit requirements for a standard high school diploma. One online course needs to be completed before graduation. Please visit [ocps.net](https://ocps.net) to access the Student Progression Plan.

## **REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

Report cards are available via Skyward Family Access and sent home every nine weeks to provide information about your child's progress in school, including grades, behavior and attendance. Grades reflect a teacher's assessment of your child's classroom performance based on tests, projects, checklists, classroom assignments, homework and classroom observations. A teacher may indicate on the report card that a conference is needed. Some schools use a parent conference to distribute the report card. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions about your child's progress in school. Midway through the grading period, each student will be provided a progress report so that the student and his or her parent or guardian will have an idea of how the student is progressing.

## **GRADUATION CREDITS**

Because of changes in state law, high school graduation requirements for the 2020-2021 school year are available on the Department of Education website, [fldoe.org](https://fldoe.org), under Graduation Requirements.

## **GIFTED STUDENTS**

OCPS is committed to an educational program that recognizes the unique value, needs and talents of individual students – including students identified as gifted. Gifted students need a qualitatively



different educational program that takes into account their intellectual abilities and provides them with a greater range of challenges than those offered by the standard curriculum.

In Florida, students are eligible for gifted services if they meet the criteria outlined in the Florida Board of Education Rule 6A-6.03019, FAC. A gifted student is one who has superior intellectual development and is capable of high performance. Eligibility criteria include a demonstrated need for the program, a majority of gifted behavioral characteristics as indicated on a standard scale or checklist and superior intellectual development as measured on an individually administered test of intelligence. For more information, visit the “Gifted” tab on the Exceptional Student Education web page, accessible through the “Departments” link on the OCPS website, [ocps.net](http://ocps.net). You also can call 407.317.3229.

## **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION (ESE)**

The purpose of the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) department is to ensure the appropriate education of all students with disabilities by establishing high expectations, removing barriers for students and teachers, modeling effective practices, and sharing information and expertise. Programs and services are available for students ages 3 through 22 with autism spectrum disorder; vision and hearing disabilities; emotional behavioral disorders; hearing impairments; cognitive disabilities; orthopedic impairments; other health impairments; specific learning disabilities; speech or language impairments; traumatic brain injuries; developmental delays; and visual impairments. Services are available for infants and toddlers with vision and hearing disabilities. More information can be found on the Exceptional Student Education web page, accessible through the “Departments” link on the OCPS website, [ocps.net](http://ocps.net).

The primary focus of ESE is to help students access the general education curriculum. A student's primary educational needs, identified in an Individual Education Plan (IEP), are met through the use of accommodations, services, specialized instructional materials and behavioral approaches that are research-based and exemplify best practices. Eligible students are served in the least restrictive environment, as appropriate to the student's identified needs. Screening, evaluation and referral services are available to preschool children ages 3-5 at Preschool Diagnostic Intervention Services (PDIS). Parents who would like more information can contact the center by calling 407.317.3503. School-age children needing evaluation services are referred through their school staffing specialists.

Other Exceptional Student Education department resources include: Parent Support Team (email [jill.morrison@ocps.net](mailto:jill.morrison@ocps.net)); Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resource System (FDLRS - pronounced “Fiddlers”) and Florida Inclusion Network, which serves as a resource for parents and teachers of students with disabilities (407.317.3660); and the Florida Department of Education, which offers a parental choice program for ESE students through the John M. McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program.

For specific information about the McKay program, please visit the OCPS McKay website at [ocps.net](http://ocps.net) (under the Departments tab), visit the FLDOE website at [floridaschoolchoice.org](http://floridaschoolchoice.org), or call the district office at 407.317.3275.

For more information about ESE programs and services, please contact your child's guidance counselor or the staffing specialist at your child's school. You also can call the Exceptional Student Education office at 407.317.3229.



School Choice



## **EDUCATION CHOICE: PARENT OPTIONS**

The emphasis behind educational choice is simply to provide parents with the right to choose which education option they feel is best for their child(ren). The goal of School Choice programs is to give parents more control over their child(ren)'s education and to allow parents to pursue the most appropriate learning environments for their child(ren). Some OCPS choice options are: Orange County Virtual School, Home Education, Charter Schools, and Magnet Programs and Magnet Schools. Other school transfer options as outlined in School Board policy are available through the Student Enrollment office at 407-317-3233.

## **THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

This program offers students attending, or assigned to attend, failing public schools the option to be placed in a higher-performing public school or a participating private school. Eligible schools for the Opportunity Scholarship transfer option have been designated as earning a grade of "F" or three consecutive "Ds" based on the state's accountability system. For additional Opportunity Scholarship transfer information, parents may call School Choice Services at 407-317-3484.

## **MAGNET PROGRAMS AND MAGNET SCHOOLS**

Magnet programs have been established in many OCPS schools to provide quality options for students. They provide rich, educational environments for students to engage in specific and intense areas of study, and allow students to explore areas of interest and develop academic skill sets. Most accept students from across the district, while others only accept students from specific schools. The application window for magnet programs and magnet schools is from Nov. 1 to Feb. 15 of each year. For a complete list of magnet programs, eligibility information and application procedures, please visit the School Choice Services website at [schoolchoice.ocps.net](http://schoolchoice.ocps.net) or call 407.317.3484.

## **ORANGE COUNTY VIRTUAL SCHOOL**

Orange County Virtual School (OCVS) offers full-time and part-time enrollment to students in grades K-12 through an online educational delivery system. Home-educated students in grades K-12 may enroll as well. OCVS offers equitable access to high-quality, individualized education through the internet. Virtual learning provides flexibility of time and location, and promotes the development of skills, attitudes and self-discipline necessary to succeed in the 21st century.

OCVS teachers and guidance counselors live locally and are sensitive to the diverse needs of Orange County students. OCVS teachers have consistently demonstrated successful student course completion. As a public school, OCVS does not charge tuition fees.

To enhance the virtual school experience for students, OCVS offers traditional extracurricular activities to provide students with opportunities to collaborate with their teachers and classmates. OCVS offers the following face-to-face extracurricular activities:

- Art Club
- Book Club
- College planning seminars
- Community service activities
- "Do Something" Club
- Elementary Chess Club
- Field trips
- Fitness Club
- Formal graduation ceremony for seniors
- International Club
- Math Club
- Monthly enrichment "work days"
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

- Open house
- PTSA/SAC
- Science Club

OCVS is a franchise partner of Florida Virtual School for elementary, middle and high school curriculums. In addition, OCVS partners with K12 Florida LLC, Fuel Education, Pearson, Accelerate Ed, eDynamic Learning and Edgenuity for its elementary and middle school programs.

OCVS is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation (CITA). For information regarding enrollment, please visit the OCVS website at [ocvs.ocps.net](http://ocvs.ocps.net) or call 407.317.3327.

## **HOME EDUCATION**

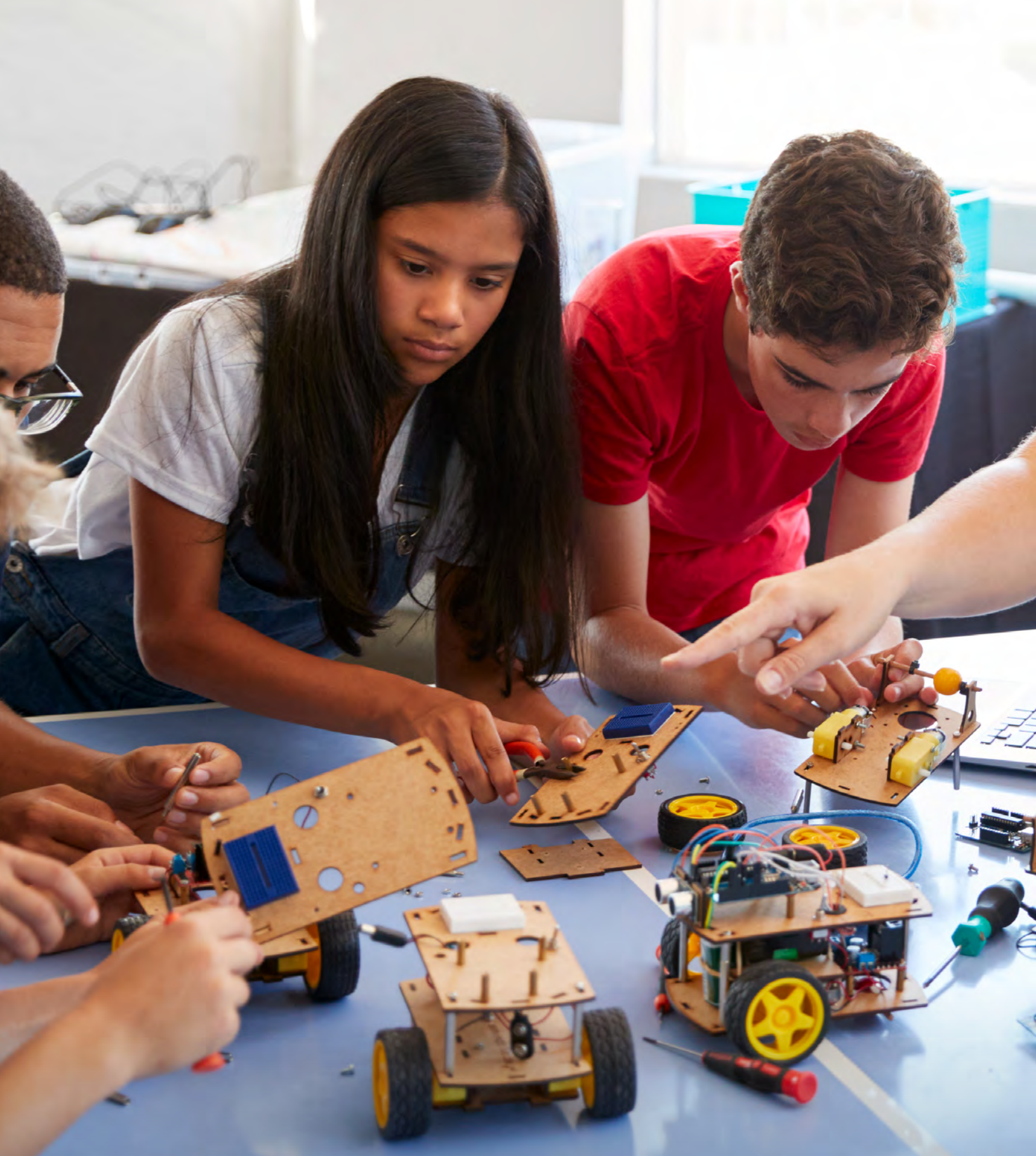
The Home Education Program allows parents to comply with the compulsory school attendance law while teaching their children at home. To begin a Home Education program, a parent must provide written notice to the district school superintendent of intent to establish and maintain a Home Education program for students ages 6 through 18, and up to 21, with an IEP. The parent assumes the responsibility for providing curriculum, educational materials and evaluations necessary for correspondence courses, or other means to provide the sequentially progressive instruction. Requirements of the Home Education Program and all forms for currently enrolled Home Education students may be found at [homeeducation.ocps.net](http://homeeducation.ocps.net).

## **CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract, or a “charter,” which frees them from many regulations created for traditional public schools while holding them accountable for academic and financial results. The charter contract between the charter school governing board and the sponsor details the school’s mission, program, goals, students served, methods of assessment and ways to measure success. Charter Schools are often designed to target specialized or underserved populations. They receive state tax dollars to operate and are monitored by the local school district. During the 2019-2020 school year, 41 charter schools were in operation and served approximately 15,000 students in Orange County.

For additional information on charter schools, contact the School Choice Services office at 407.317.3484, extensions 2022598 or 2022677, or visit [schoolchoice.ocps.net](http://schoolchoice.ocps.net).





Special Programs

The district has several state, federal and privately funded grants and initiatives to promote and provide services and resources for family literacy. All program components employ methods that are essential to literacy. A few of these include Read2Succeed and the annual summer reading initiative.

## **READ2SUCCEED PROGRAM**

In partnership with the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools (FOCPS), the OCPS Curriculum, Instruction and Digital Learning department offers Read2Succeed, a tutoring program to support students who need a little extra assistance to develop their literacy skills in first and second grades.

FOCPS seeks grants from local and national community partners to provide funding for training volunteer tutors, stipends for certified reading assistants, program management, books and other materials necessary to conduct the program free of charge for our students.

Volunteer tutors are recruited, trained and then matched with students at participating OCPS elementary schools. Tutors utilize a highly effective step-by-step curriculum that incorporates pre- and post-tests to monitor student progress weekly throughout the school year.

Read2Succeed offers a first-grade vocabulary enhancement program that takes an interactive read-aloud approach to teach high-utility vocabulary to students who are identified by teachers as needing assistance with vocabulary skills. The tutoring session culminates in a journaling activity that requires the student to apply the new vocabulary term in a different context. Students build a home library with books from the program during the course of the school year. This program fosters a love of reading and sharpens vocabulary skills. In addition, Read2Succeed offers a second-grade fluency program which utilizes "The Six-Minute Solution," a research-based program that quickly builds fluency through interactive, repeated readings of high-interest, targeted readability passages. This curriculum provides identified students with improved fluency and comprehension skills.

To become a Read2Succeed volunteer reading tutor, please register at [foundationforocps.org](http://foundationforocps.org) or [ocps.samaritan.com](http://ocps.samaritan.com).

## **SUMMER READING INITIATIVE**

OCPS prepares an annual summer reading campaign to encourage students to continue to read throughout the summer months. Research shows that students who do not read during the summer months may experience "summer slide." To prevent this summer learning loss, OCPS offers a summer reading website, [summerreading.ocps.net](http://summerreading.ocps.net), which provides parents and students with age-appropriate book lists and other educational resources.

## **VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

OCPS participates in Florida's Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) program, offering 540 hours of learning during the school year or 300 hours during the summer. VPK is available free of charge for children who are 4 years-old by Sept. 1. Space is limited, however, and granted on a first-come, first-served basis. VPK Roundup is offered each spring and kicks off the registration process.

During the school year, OCPS offers VPK at 82 elementary schools and the Washington Shores Primary Learning Center. Various VPK program models offered during the school year are:

- Full day and half day
- Two-Way Dual Language
- Foreign Language
- Pre-K Exceptional Student Inclusion

Details and a list of the participating schools are available on the Early Childhood Program's web page, [earlychildhood.ocps.net](http://earlychildhood.ocps.net).



The OCPS VPK program leads students to success by offering a high-quality program that incorporates the following stimulating and developmentally appropriate practices:

- Encourages children to achieve their highest potential through healthy, innovative, educational and fun activities
- Models the character traits of honesty, respect, responsibility and kindness
- Builds a sense of community between school and family
- Values diversity by encouraging children to learn about their heritage and the heritage of others, and continually exposing children to literature, music and toys that celebrate diversity.
- Extends the range of play and learning experiences outside the classroom through an emphasis on outdoor and natural learning environments, field trips and classroom visits from a wide variety of community resource representatives.
- Supports inclusion of children with special needs in the general education classroom.
- Integrates classroom centers, which support the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards, focusing on current academic themes that include opportunities for language and physical development, early literacy, writing and mathematical thinking.

For more information about VPK programs at OCPS, please visit [earlychildhood.ocps.net](http://earlychildhood.ocps.net).

### **MCKINNEY--VENTO PROGRAM**

The purpose of the McKinney--Vento Program (Homeless Education) is to address any educational barriers that may arise for children and youth experiencing homelessness as defined by the McKinney--Vento portion of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The program helps in facilitating enrollment, attendance and the educational success of students in housing transition. In addition, Homeless Education liaisons coordinate services among schools, shelters and community agencies to meet educational needs. If you and your family find yourselves in transition, please reach out to your local school, visit [homeless.ocps.net](http://homeless.ocps.net), or call 407.317.3485. Families also can put in a request for support via <https://tinyurl.com/OCPSupports>.

### **MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The OCPS Migrant Education Program is a federally funded program implemented in cooperation with the Florida Department of Education. A migrant child, ages 0-21, is one who is or whose parent, spouse or guardian is a migratory agricultural worker, migratory dairy worker or migratory fisher. The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure that all migrant students reach challenging academic standards despite barriers due to high mobility and graduate with a high- school diploma (or complete a GED) that prepares them to succeed in college or in a technical career. Additionally, Migrant Education Program staff coordinate academic, social and health services for eligible migrant students. For more information, please visit [migranteducation.ocps.net](http://migranteducation.ocps.net) or call 407.317.3485.

### **TITLE I SERVICES**

Title I ensures that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education. Title I provides supplemental funds to improve achievement of all students enrolled in high-needs schools by providing federal funding in the following areas:

- Additional academic programs and staff
- After school tutoring
- Teachers certified in the subject area that they teach
- Intense, ongoing professional development
- Meaningful parental-engagement activities
- Research-based instructional materials
- Support for families in transition
- Full-day Pre-K programs

Title I supports nine major areas:

- Schoolwide Projects – Schools receive supplemental support for upgrading their programs. Therefore, all students attending are eligible to receive services regardless of income status.
- McKinney-Vento Program – A supplemental educational and referral program for children and families qualifying for services to families in housing transition.
- Migrant Education – A supplemental program providing social and educational services to migratory children and families.
- Alternative Education N & D program – A prevention and intervention program for children and youth who are neglected, delinquent or at risk.
- Non-public – A supplemental program providing academic services for eligible children attending private schools.
- Pre-K – Title I partners with VPK to provide half of the funding for a full-day program. This partnership seeks to prepare for kindergarten all children 4 years old on or before Sept. 1, who reside in Orange County.
- Academic Tutoring Services – Tutoring and small-group instruction is provided to selected students attending Title I schools.
- Professional Development – Schools receive ongoing technical assistance to support professional growth of the instructional and support staff.

## **MULTILINGUAL SERVICES**

English language learners (ELLs) are provided comprehensible instruction through specialized programs such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), One-Way Transitional Program Model, Two-Way Dual Language Program (K-8) and Sheltered Instruction (K-12).

Students can qualify for an ESOL-specialized instructional model based on the results of their initial placement test and a programmatic assessment conducted at the home school by qualified personnel. This initial placement test, the IDEA Proficiency Test (IPT), will be given to a student who has answered “yes” to one or more of the home-language survey questions to determine his/her level of language proficiency. These questions are as follows:

- Is a language other than English used in the home?
- Does the student most frequently speak a language other than English?
- Did the student have a first language other than English?

If a student qualifies for services, parents may choose a specialized instructional model, when available, based on the OCPS-approved school feeder pattern. ESOL instruction enables all ELLs to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in English based on the state of English Language Development Standards (WIDA) and the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS).

### *Instructional Models available*

#### *Mainstream/Inclusion Language Arts (K-12)*

The ELL is in a mainstream classroom with a teacher who is certified or is working toward the certification in ESOL. Students are in a setting with native English speakers. The curriculum is presented in a way that makes the instruction comprehensible while allowing the student to acquire the new language in a natural, cumulative and systematic way.

#### *Mainstream/Inclusion Basic Subject Areas (math, science, social studies and computer literacy)*

The ELL is placed in a mainstream classroom with a teacher who is certified or is working toward the ESOL certification. Students are in a setting with native English speakers. Through the continued use of ESOL strategies and accommodations, the teacher will provide understandable instruction in the subject areas while the student is acquiring the English language.

*Sheltered Language Arts (Selected classes/courses within the Home School)*

An English class designed specifically for ELLs only who are in the process of acquiring ELA skills. Sheltered instruction will allow your ELLs to receive instruction in English at their proficiency level.

*Sheltered Basic Subject Areas (Selected classes/courses within the Home School)*

A class designed specifically for ELLs only who are in the process of acquiring ELA skills. Sheltered instruction will allow your ELLs to receive instruction in English at their English proficiency level. Students receive grade-level subject-area instruction to develop English language skills at the same time they develop academic skills.

*Transitional Bilingual Program Model*

*(select K-2 schools)*

This model allows your ELL to receive instruction in two languages (English and Spanish). The purpose of the program is for students to become proficient in English while developing grade-level academic skills in both the native language and English. The students must meet eligibility criteria in order to qualify for this model. (Please refer to the feeder pattern for available centers and criteria for program participation).

*Two-Way Dual Language Program Model*

*(select K-8 schools)*

The goal of the Two-Way Dual Language Program is for students to become bilingual and biliterate in both English and a partner language (Spanish), demonstrate high levels of academic achievement and cultivate positive cross-cultural attitudes. Balanced numbers of native English speakers and native speakers of the target language are taught literacy and academic content in both languages so that each group serves in the role of language model and language learner as they acquire knowledge in core academic areas. Students who enroll in the OCPS Two-Way Dual Language Program will learn to read, write and speak in English and Spanish.

Classroom demographics begin with 50 percent ELLs and 50 percent native English speakers in kindergarten/first grade. If an ELL student exits the ESOL program, they may continue in the Two-Way Dual Language Model.

All teachers who work with ELLs are trained and are highly qualified to work with these students. The Multilingual Services department offers training for teachers throughout the school year that focuses on strategies to implement in the classroom to better serve ELLs and help them achieve success in all academic areas while receiving comprehensible instruction.

The department encourages parents of ELLs to become involved with the Multilingual Parent Leadership Council (MPLC) at their child's school. To become involved with the District MPLC, please contact Lead Parent Liaison, Dr. Rebecca Millan (Spanish), at 407.317.3200, Ext. 2003410. Parents can help to accelerate their student's English language and native language learning by:

- Engaging in storytelling
- Reading stories in native language, English and/or bilingual books
- Comparing and contrasting languages
- Discussing and using cognates
- Reading aloud to and with the student
- Chanting rhymes and singing songs
- Visiting the local public library
- Engaging in meaningful conversation
- Having a set schedule for homework time
- Having students practice using a dictionary and thesaurus



- Watching educational television programs with closed captions
- Encouraging journaling and writing
- Staying abreast of and participating in cultural and educational events occurring at school and within the community

### **SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK SERVICES**

School social workers serve as liaisons between home, school and the community by providing direct services to students to enhance well-being and improve academic performance. School social workers help to reduce barriers for students and families by linking them with services and programs within the community. School social work services include attendance support, mental health intervention, crisis support and behavioral assessment. Please contact your school office to access social work services.

### **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES**

School psychologists partner with families, teachers, school administrators and other professionals to create a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment that strengthens connections among the home, school and the community. School psychologists assist in understanding and resolving both short-term and chronic problems that may impact overall student success. Direct services include mental health intervention; crisis support; assessment for academic and behavioral concerns; and intervention planning for academic and behavior needs. Please contact your school office to access school psychology services.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND SCHOOL CLUBS**

Students who have specialized interests may join athletics, and clubs involved with topics including, but not limited to math; computers; foreign language; business; science; art; drama; debate; or robotics. For a complete listing of opportunities available on your campus, please visit your school website.

### **EXTENDED DAY/SCHOOL AGE SERVICES**

After school hours provide students with an extra opportunity to engage in hands-on learning; interact with their peers; work under the care and supervision of supportive mentors; build on lessons learned during the school day; and more. Approximately 20,000 elementary and middle school children participate in before and after school programs on OCPS campuses. Daily activities include homework time; supervised free play; organized games; art; drama; crafts; music; and a variety of enrichment opportunities to support student achievement.

One hundred twenty-eight elementary schools offer before and after school programs. Children remain at school, enrolled in a safe, convenient and affordable program. Many schools also offer full-day summer programs. To meet the needs of each school community, elementary principals may choose the OCPS Extended Day Enrichment Program or a program operated by an approved outsourced vendor. Programs offer supervision and a variety of enrichment activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. All elementary programs are fee-supported by those using their service.

Thirty-nine middle schools offer programs during the school year and many operate during the summer. The middle school programs (Afterschool Zone and Afterschool All Stars) are funded through a partnership among the school district, Orange County Government (Citizens Commission for Children) and the City of Orlando.

For more information, contact your child's school or call School Age Services at 407.317.3383.



# Alternative Education Center Programs



## **ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CENTERS FOR SUCCESS**

Alternative Education aims to provide a unique educational environment. The delivery of services meets the individual learning needs of a diverse population in a nontraditional setting. Alternative Education provides a choice for students and parents, capitalizes on the high quality of available expertise and fosters caring, respectful relationships where students are valued.

### **UNIVERSAL EDUCATION CENTER, *School-to-Work***

OCPS School-to-Work has partnered for more than 26 years with Universal Orlando.

Providing an alternative to traditional high school, its Universal Education Center (UEC) is a school-to-work program located on the grounds of the resort. UEC delivers:

- Smaller learning environment with individualized academic instruction
- A daily school schedule that is divided between academic and work
- Workforce readiness skills and practical work experience
- Summer school with one additional credit toward graduation (half academic and half elective credit earned)
- A school-community-business connection
- Students follow the Core Class Progression based on individual requirements for graduation
- Classes taught by OCPS teachers
- Scholarship opportunities - Valencia College Bridges to Success
- Students' high school diploma reflect the name of their home school
- Participation in home school events, i.e., prom, homecoming and graduation
- OCPS school bus transportation

#### **Qualifications**

- 16 years of age or older
- Qualifying GPA
- Strong desire to work and gain valuable work experience
- Strong desire to be successful in a nontraditional school setting
- Commit to working three hours per day, Monday - Friday for a minimum of 15 hours per week
- No major discipline referrals
- Satisfactory attendance

Students who are interested can see their guidance counselor at their home school or contact the School-to-Work Recruiter at 407.318.3150 ext. 6382231 or email [SchooltoWork@ocps.net](mailto:SchooltoWork@ocps.net).

### **Simon Youth Academy, *School-to-Work***

The Simon Youth Academy is an 18-year partnership between OCPS and the Simon Youth Foundation (SYF). The SYF mission is to help at-risk students earn their high school diploma and to award scholarships to teens in Simon Mall communities all over the nation. Simon Youth Academy is a school-to-work initiative located at Outlet Marketplace, providing students with the following:

- Smaller learning environment with individualized instruction
- Daily school schedule divided between academics and work
- Workforce readiness skills and practical work experience
- Summer school with one additional academic credit toward graduation
- A school-community-business connection
- Students follow the Core Class Progression based on individual requirements for graduation
- Classes taught by OCPS teachers
- Scholarship opportunities – Valencia College Bridges to Success



- Students' high school diploma reflect the name of their home school
- Participation in home school events, i.e., prom, homecoming and graduation
- OCPS school bus transportation

#### Qualifications

- 16 years of age or older
- Qualifying GPA
- Strong desire to work and gain valuable work experience
- Strong desire to be successful in a nontraditional school setting
- Commit to working three hours per day, Monday - Sunday for a minimum of 15 hours per week at work sites in Orange County
- No major discipline referrals
- Satisfactory attendance

Students who are interested may see their guidance counselor at their home school or contact the School-to-Work Recruiter at 407.318.3150 ext. 6382231 or email [SchooltoWork@ocps.net](mailto:SchooltoWork@ocps.net).

#### **Project COMPASS**

The Project Compass Alternative School program is the educational component of the 20-partnership between OCPS and Goodwill Industries.

The program serves middle and high school students ages 11-19. The school environment is a different approach from the traditional educational setting emphasizing smaller class sizes. Project Compass gives students academic and possible employment opportunities while developing life skills and obtaining a high school diploma.

#### Program Features:

- Middle/High school traditional school curriculum to prepare students for graduation
- Smaller learning environment with individualized instruction
- Students follow the Core Class Progression based on individual requirements for graduation
- Classes taught by OCPS teachers
- Scholarship opportunities – Valencia College Bridges to Success
- Students' high school diploma reflect the name of their home school
- Participation in home school events, i.e., prom, homecoming and graduation
- Industry certification in hospitality (as part of a school-to-work component)
- OCPS school bus transportation

Contact Project Compass at Goodwill Industries for more information at 407.235.1500, ext. 475, or 407.745.5475.

#### Teen Parent Program

##### **BETA**

The BETA Alternative School program is the educational component of the partnership between OCPS and UCP of Central Florida, Inc.

BETA provides open enrollment to a pregnant teen or young mother within the district and serves approximately 60 students (ages 11-19). The school environment is a different approach to the traditional educational setting emphasizing smaller class sizes. BETA gives pregnant teens and young mothers academic and possible employment opportunities while developing life skills and obtaining a high school diploma.

#### Program Features:

- Middle/High school traditional school curriculum to prepare students for graduation

- Smaller learning environment with individualized instruction
- Students follow the Core Class Progression based on individual requirements for graduation
- Classes taught by OCPS teachers
- Scholarship Opportunities – Valencia College Bridges to Success
- Students' high school diploma reflect the name of their home school
- Participation in home school events, i.e., prom, homecoming and graduation
- Electives such as parenting skills, debate and journalism; industry certification in Early Childhood Education (as part of a school-to-work component)
- Childcare (on property)
- OCPS school bus transportation for students and babies

Contact BETA for more information at 407.374.2630.

## Contracted Sites

### **PACE Center for Girls**

For more than 28 years, PACE has been a leader in providing voluntary, gender-responsive alternatives to education for girls. PACE serves girls between the ages of 11 and 17. The PACE model provides year-round, comprehensive and holistic education; social services; case management; counseling; therapeutic treatment; and career readiness.

- Career-preparation assistance
- Individualized instruction
- Support after-program completion
- Academic advising
- Credit recovery
- Service learning

Contact PACE for more information at 407.992.0456, or online at [pacecenter.org](http://pacecenter.org).

### **AMIkids Orlando**

AMIkids Orlando is a day-treatment program with an after care component, serving teen boys and girls ages 14-18 referred by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice or OCPS. The program operates during day hours with youth returning home in the evenings. Together, with the support of families, AMIkids provides comprehensive services to area youth through the AMIkids Personal Growth Model®.

The AMIkids Personal Growth Model is a research-driven, evidence-based intervention at the core of all programming. It is a unified approach that combines education, treatment and behavior modification that provides holistic services to each teen, allowing them to grow personally and prepare for the future.

What makes us different? At the center of the AMIkids Personal Growth Model is our culture, essential as a foundation to everything we do for kids. We provide teens with a values-based environment. Students receive vital direction through role modeling and showing them every day, in every situation, what it means to be responsible and accountable. It is this family environment that sets us apart. Our culture is the link between what our kids are capable of and what they choose to become.

Contact AMIkids Orlando for more information at 407.886.5405.

## **Alternative to Suspension**

Every parent has high hopes and dreams for their child(ren) when they enter school. In OCPS, children are met by caring adults who provide engaging instruction with the goal of helping each child achieve success and reach his/her dreams. However, there are times when a child may engage in behavior that results in a temporary separation between the child and the school, known as a suspension. OCPS has a program to assist suspended students to ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn every day. Parents whose child may be suspended are invited to contact one of our alternative-to-suspension education sites. At these sites, the child will be supervised by a team of adults; receive access to an education; gain life and social skill training; be provided breakfast and lunch; and treated with respect and dignity. Because alternative-to-suspension education sites are regionally located throughout Orange County, parents may choose the site closest to their home, work, or other location. To learn more information, please visit [suspension.ocps.net](http://suspension.ocps.net) or contact one of the following centers:

### A2S Sites - OCPS

Bithlo Community Center  
18501 Washington Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32820  
407.254.1939

James R. Smith Center  
1723 Bruton Blvd.  
Orlando, FL 32805  
407.246.4437

### Faith Based Sites – OCPS Partners

Keeping Up!  
109 Washington Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32810  
407.660.1288

Fresh Start  
8001 Silver Star Rd.  
Orlando, FL 32818  
407.522.6511

### ALPS – Alternative Learning Placement Services

989 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 204  
Orlando, FL 32810  
321.263.0668

## **Acceleration East and Acceleration West high schools**

Our Acceleration campuses' primary purpose is to empower students today for a bright future tomorrow through accelerated learning. These schools provide and model a rigorous educational program within an encouraging learning environment supported by a high level of personal commitment from both students and staff. Staff at Acceleration East and Acceleration West believe that each student has the courage to overcome any and all obstacles, the energy to excel beyond expectations, and the determination to do and be their best. Acceleration East and Acceleration West offer a high school curriculum within a small learning setting that focuses on career and college readiness to ensure students have multiple pathways beyond their high school diploma. Enrollment is based on the geographical location of the student's home. For students who live on the east side of Interstate 4, please contact Acceleration East. For students who live on the west side of Interstate 4, please contact Acceleration West. OCPS bus transportation is provided for students attending either Acceleration campus.



**Acceleration West Middle School**

Acceleration West offers an accelerated middle school program that allows students to complete seventh and eighth grade in one year. This program is for overaged students who have been promoted to seventh grade. Within the school's block schedule, students take only the seventh grade core classes in the fall semester and the eighth grade core classes in the spring semester. If they pass all eight of these core classes, they will complete their last two years of middle school in one year.

Contact Acceleration East at 407.992.0917, or Acceleration West at 407.521.2358.

**High School Career and Technical Education Programs**

Every OCPS high school has career and technical education courses that help students learn career-related skills, achieve industry certifications and earn articulated college credit – all from their home high school, as well as on Orange Technical College campuses. Career and Technical Education courses prepare students for a career in their field of interest through industry-based curriculum, highly qualified teachers and modern equipment currently used in the field. There are many career fields to explore within OCPS high schools, including gaming & simulation; multimedia design; construction; manufacturing; health care; automotive; and more. Please visit the career specialist on your child's high school campus for more information.

**Orange Technical College Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment (offered through Orange Technical College) allows students to immerse themselves in their chosen field by enrolling in technical college classes while remaining enrolled at their home high school. With cutting-edge programs in a variety of growing career fields, every student is one step away from finding their passion in life and gaining valuable work-related experience – all before they graduate from high school. Dual enrollment programs may be offered on the high school campus or may require students to spend half of the school day at an OTC campus. There is no tuition cost to the student to participate in dual enrollment courses.

**Youth Apprenticeship**

Youth apprenticeship programs in the Academy of Construction Technology are two-year programs that explore careers in construction. These in-depth, hands-on trainings offer an overview of a variety of trades (masonry, carpentry, HVAC, electrical, plumbing) and related instruction to emphasize the qualifications and skills needed for each trade. Career entry advice and emphasis on the importance of succeeding in school and in the workforce are included benefits. Youth apprentices also are given the opportunity to interview with one of 50 industry contractors for a summer on-the-job-training experience.

Contact Orange Technical College for more information at 407.841.TECH, or visit [orangetechcollege.net](http://orangetechcollege.net).



Assessments

## ASSESSMENTS

Provided for OCPS students

### Standardized Testing

Standardized assessments are given to large numbers of children in a standard way: the same directions, the same test conditions and the same amount of time allowed. Parents receive information about any standardized tests that their child(ren) take.

American College Testing Program (ACT)

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of subject-area tests in English, mathematics, reading and science. The ACT includes 215 multiple-choice questions and takes approximately three hours and 30 minutes to complete. All four-year colleges and universities in the United States accept the results.

Advanced Placement (AP)

[www.apcentral.collegeboard.com/home](http://www.apcentral.collegeboard.com/home)

Advanced Placement exams are designed to measure how well a student has mastery in nearly 40 courses that are instructed at most colleges and universities. A successful score could earn students credit and advanced placement in college, allowing them to save money or pursue more directed studies during their time in school.

Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA)

[www.fldoe.org/asp/altassessment.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/asp/altassessment.asp)

The Florida Standards Alternate Assessment is designed for students whose participation in general statewide assessment is not appropriate even with accommodations. The FSAA measures proficiency on Access Points. Access Points are academic expectations written specifically for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

ACCESS for English Language Learners (ELLs)

<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/fl-alternate-assessment.shtml>

ACCESS for ELLs measures the acquisition of the English language by our students for whom English is a second language. Kindergarten-12th grade ELL students take this assessment once per year. This assessment uses three tiers to maximize the accuracy and validity of the results. Alternate ACCESS for ELLs also is given once per year to first-12th-grade ELL students who have significant cognitive disabilities that prevent their meaningful participation in the ACCESS for ELLs assessment.

Florida End-of-Course (EOC) Assessments

[www.fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/](http://www.fcat.fldoe.org/eoc/)

<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/end-of-course-eoc-assessments/>

Florida's EOC assessments are computer-based criterion-referenced assessments that measure either the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards or the Florida Standards for specific courses as outlined in their course descriptions. Florida EOC assessments are currently offered in Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, U.S. History and Civics.

Florida Standards Assessment (FSA)

The Florida Standards Assessment replaced the FCAT 2.0 starting in the 2014-15 school year. Students receive this assessment for English/Language Arts in grades 3 through 10, mathematics in grades 3 through 8, Algebra I and Geometry.

Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening (FLKRS)



[www.floridaeearlylearning.com/providers/provider\\_resources/florida\\_kindergarten\\_readiness\\_screener.aspx](http://www.floridaeearlylearning.com/providers/provider_resources/florida_kindergarten_readiness_screener.aspx)

<http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment/flkrs/>

The FLKRS assessment gathers information about a child's overall development and addresses each student's readiness for kindergarten based on the Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards for 4 year-olds. This assessment also is used to calculate the VPK Provider Kindergarten Readiness Rate, which measures how well a VPK provider prepares 4 year-olds to be ready for kindergarten based on the standards.

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT)

[www.fldoe.org/fcs/pert.asp](http://www.fldoe.org/fcs/pert.asp)

The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test is Florida's customized common placement test. The purpose of the PERT is to determine accurate course placement based on the student's skills and abilities for participation in dual enrollment programs. The PERT is aligned with the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies identified by Florida faculty as necessary for success in entry-level college credit coursework. The PERT assessment system includes placement and diagnostic tests in mathematics, reading and writing. This assessment also is used as a comparative score in Algebra I for students who have not met the Algebra I EOC graduation requirement when entering ninth grade on or before August 2018.

Preliminary SAT (PSAT)

[www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/about.html)

The Preliminary SAT is a standardized assessment that provides practice for the SAT. It can determine students' eligibility for National Merit Scholarship programs and gain them access to college- and career-planning tools. The PSAT measures critical reading skills, mathematics, problem-solving skills and writing skills. These results can be linked to the Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)), which provides customized online tutorials to increase student performance on the SAT.

SAT

[www.sat.collegeboard.org/home](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org/home)

The SAT is designed to assess academic readiness for college. It assesses reading, writing and mathematics, and results are accepted by all colleges and universities in the United States. The assessment consists of 10 sections that take a total of three hours and 45 minutes to complete.

## **GED Testing**

Orange Technical College is home to the only official GED® testing sites in Orange County. We take pride in helping individuals reach their goals through successful completion of their GED.

Effective Jan. 1, 2014, the pencil-and-paper version of the GED test was replaced with a computer-based test and scores for partially completed GED tests were discarded. Those who took but did not pass all five parts of the previous version had until the end of 2013 to pass or take the new 2014 GED test in order to receive their high school credential. Individuals who successfully complete the GED test will be awarded a State of Florida High School Diploma.

Underage students (ages 16-17) must speak with their high school guidance counselor before withdrawing from school to attempt the GED course of study. Prospective underage testers must exhaust all alternative means of getting back on track and have an extraordinary circumstance that would prevent them from continuing their regular high school studies. Underage testing is conducted in accordance with Orange County School Board policy and the Department of Education. In the state of Florida, GED candidates must be at least 18 years of age or older unless they have been granted a GED underage waiver. Underage waivers are obtained during the registration process at [www.ged.com](http://www.ged.com).

GED preparation courses are offered through OTC, and include instruction and coursework in the four tested content areas: reasoning through language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. These full-time or part-time classes are available during the day or evening at sites throughout Orange County.



Health and Wellness



## **OCPS WELLNESS POLICY**

The purpose of the local school Wellness Policy is to ensure schools follow all applicable regulations for physical and nutrition education and provide a healthy school environment. There is a district School Health and Wellness Advisory Council (SHWAC) which reviews and recommends revisions to the policy to the OCPS board annually. The Wellness Policy includes information about healthy foods on the school campus, foods allowed for fundraising, recess and physical education, and each school's Healthy School team.

[https://www.ocps.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_54619/File/School%20Board/Policies/Board%20Approved/IHAM%20Local%20School%20Wellness%20\(11-13-18\).pdf](https://www.ocps.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_54619/File/School%20Board/Policies/Board%20Approved/IHAM%20Local%20School%20Wellness%20(11-13-18).pdf)

### **School Meals**

School meals such as breakfast and lunch are available at all schools. Supper is available at no charge in schools where 50% or more of the children are eligible for meals at free or reduced charges. Information on meal prices, menus and special diets are found under "Quick Links" on the Food and Nutrition Services website at:

[https://www.ocps.net/departments/food\\_and\\_nutrition\\_services](https://www.ocps.net/departments/food_and_nutrition_services)

### **Meal Applications for Free or Reduced-Priced Meals**

Applications for free or reduced priced meals are available at:

<https://www.myschoolapps.com/>

Students in families receiving federal benefits such as SNAP do not need to fill out an application. They already qualify for meals at no charge. Schools in high poverty areas in Orange County offer a USDA program called the Community Eligibility Program or CEP. In these schools, all students eat at no charge. A list of these schools can be found at:

[https://www.ocps.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server\\_54619/File/Departments/Food%20and%20Nutrition%20Services/Parent/CEP%20&%20P2%2018-19.pdf](https://www.ocps.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_54619/File/Departments/Food%20and%20Nutrition%20Services/Parent/CEP%20&%20P2%2018-19.pdf).

### **Prepay for School Meals**

Parents may open an account for their student and prepay for their meals on the School Pay application. The application can be set to remind you of low balances and/or set the restrictions for student purchases. Information on prepayment of meals online or other information regarding meals can be found at: <https://www.schoolpay.com/>.

### **Negative Debt**

NO student will be denied a meal in the serving line. A meal charge will apply to student meal accounts when there are no funds available. Per USDA regulations, cashiers may not discuss meal balances with students. Connect Orange will be used to contact parents when student account debt balances reach \$10 or more. You may check your child's account at [www.SchoolPay.com](http://www.SchoolPay.com). There is no charge for checking the account. When the account debt reaches greater than \$20, you will receive an email regarding the overdrawn account. The district will mail letters seeking payment when there is no email on file. Meals will *never* be denied to students unless the parent sends a written statement that his/her student may not eat school meals.

## **MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

Do not send medications to school with your child. This practice puts your child, as well as his/her peers, at risk. Should your child require medication while he/ she is at school, please contact your school's nurse or health assistant to obtain the appropriate forms. OCPS staff members are not permitted to administer expired medications. In the case that a child's medication expires, the parent or guardian will be contacted to pick up the expired medications. NOTES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORIZATION FOR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION.

## **ILLNESS**

Do not send your child to school if he/ she has a rash; fever; eye drainage; severe vomiting or diarrhea; a productive cough; or any symptoms that may indicate a communicable disease. Students with any of these symptoms will be sent home. Any call to a parent or guardian for a child to be picked up due to an illness is to ensure the health and safety of the child. It is expected that the child be picked up in a timely manner. If your child has any of the above-stated symptoms, please notify the school that your child is ill and request a doctor's note so that your child's absence can be excused.

## **IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

All student immunizations and documentation of immunizations must be correct and up to date to attend school in Orange County. The immunizations are recorded on a Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680) form, which can be obtained through the Orange County Health Department or your medical provider's office. All students entering Orange County public schools for the first time should have a physical exam completed and documented by a licensed physician within the last calendar year.

### **2020-21 Immunization and Physical Requirements for School Attendance**

Physical Exam within one year of school entry

Valid Florida DH 680 Immunization Form (Any color paper is acceptable for the DH 680 form, blue paper is not required)

#### **PRE-KINDERGARTEN**

DTaP Series

Polio Series

Hepatitis B Series

H. Influenza Type B (HIB) Series\*

Pneumococcal Conjugate Series (PCV)

1 dose of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

1 dose of Varicella (Chickenpox)

\*age appropriate doses

\*\*all series must be completed prior to entry into kindergarten

#### **KINDERGARTEN through 6TH GRADE**

DTaP Series

Polio Series

Hepatitis B Series

2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

2 doses of Varicella (Chickenpox)

#### **7TH & 8TH GRADE**

DTaP Series

1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

Polio Series

Hepatitis B Series

2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

2 doses of Varicella (Chickenpox)

#### **9TH through 12TH GRADE**

DTaP Series

1 dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

Polio Series

Hepatitis B Series

2 doses of Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

1 dose of Varicella (Chickenpox)

For more information, please contact the Florida Department of Health in Orange County School Health Program at 407-858-1438 or the Immunization Program at 407-858-1444.







Student Enrollment

## **STUDENT ENROLLMENT**

- A child must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1 to enter kindergarten.
- A child must be 6 years old on or before Sept. 1 and must have successfully completed kindergarten to enter first grade.
- To find out which school your child will attend, along with the documents needed to register your child, call Student Enrollment at 407.317.3233 or check the district's website at [www.ocps.net](http://www.ocps.net).





Transportation



## **TRANSPORTATION**

OCPS operates the largest public transportation system in Central Florida. During the 2019-2020 school year, 847 buses transported approximately 70,000 students to and from school daily. Annually, OCPS school buses travel on average 18.5 million miles annually and more than 100,000 miles on an average school day.

For more information regarding services, please contact Transportation Services at 407.317.3800, or visit the Transportation Services section on the OCPS website.



Family Engagement

## PARENT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Research shows that students achieve more when parents are involved in their child's education. OCPS Parent and Virtual Academies effectively link parents to vital district, school and community resources during the year. These two essential resources provide parents, families, students, staff, and community members an opportunity to learn from and with one another in an effort to increase student achievement.

## OCPS PARENT ACADEMY

The OCPS Parent Academy is an educational program designed to enhance student achievement through the support of community and family engagement. The program's purpose is to strengthen and build the capacity of families.

Workshops are conducted by experts from the district, school-based personnel and community partners. Parents receive an array of support for their children and themselves.

The face-to-face academies emphasize four strands:

- *Supporting Student Success: Student Achievement*
- *Getting Involved: Leadership and Advocacy*
- *Promoting Well-being: Social Emotional Wellness/Health*
- *Embracing Multiculturalism: Connecting diverse cultures to the school system*

Note:

*Free for all families*

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Registration closes at 10:30 on the day of the event. Pre-registration recommended.

Special accommodations are provided to the children (students ages 4 to 18) of participating parents, allowing them to attend the Youth Academy. The Youth Academy follows the same schedule as the adult sessions. Registration is required for children, and parents must attend adult sessions.

2020-2021 OCPS Parent Academy dates:

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020  
Windermere High School  
5523 Winter Garden Vineland Rd.  
Windermere, FL 34786

Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021  
Oak Ridge High School  
700 West Oak Ridge Rd.  
Orlando, FL 32809

**Special Note: Intended for families of middle and high school students**

Saturday, May 15, 2021  
University High School  
2450 Cougar Way  
Orlando, FL 32817

The OCPS Virtual Parent Academy is an extension of the OCPS Parent Academy, where parents and children are given an opportunity to join a session online from 6 to 7 p.m. The online platform is an enrichment tool for parents and students to obtain educational information and resources. The events are accessible online from any location with internet access. Parents and children may attend from home, community sites or schools serving as host sites. The presentations are conducted by district and community experts.



Note:

*Free for all families*

*Online Platform*

*6 – 7 p.m.*

Parents use computers to watch presentations with presenters available online to chat, personalizing the experience.

**2020-2021 Virtual Academy Events:**

Thursday, Aug. 20, 2020

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021

Thursday, April 22, 2021

For more information, visit [www.ParentAcademy.ocps.net](http://www.ParentAcademy.ocps.net) or call Parent and Family Engagement at 407.317.3300.

**PARENT WORKSHOPS AND FAMILY LEARNING EVENTS**

OCPS provides workshops and learning events to parents and families on ways to effectively engage in their children's education in order for all students to achieve at the highest academic level. This is accomplished through districtwide events such as the OCPS Parent Academy and OCPS Virtual Parent Academy, as well as a host of offerings by schools. In addition, many Title I schools have a parent resource center and a Parent Engagement Liaison in the elementary setting and a Secondary Engagement Liaison in the secondary setting to support student achievement through parent engagement strategies. Please call your child's school office for more information about programs that serve your school.



Getting Involved

### **School Advisory Council**

Each Orange County public school invites parents to get involved. One of the ways parents can get involved is through the School Advisory Council (SAC). This council is a group that brings representatives of stakeholders together to assist the school principal with developing and evaluating a school improvement plan. Each school must have a SAC that is ethnically, racially and economically representative of its community. Members of the SAC are selected according to procedures established by the school and school board in compliance with the requirements of state statutes. Each SAC is composed of the principal and representatives of teachers, education support employees, parents, community members and students. High schools and technical centers must have students as part of their SAC membership. Student membership on middle and elementary school SACs is optional. Teachers, education support employees, students and parents are elected to the SAC by their peer groups. Community members are appointed by the principal.

### **Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

Schools also have schoolwide parent-teacher support groups. The majority of these support groups are Parent Teacher Associations (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSA). Local school unit PTAs and PTSAs are part of the Orange County Council of PTA, as well as the Florida PTA and National PTA. PTA provides members with parent education, leadership training and a powerful voice of advocacy on behalf of all children. PTA also pursues legislative initiatives adopted by its members in Orange County and has been named the OCPS' parent group of choice.

### **Title I Parent and Family Engagement**

Title I activities place a strong emphasis on providing workshops for parents to support them as their child(ren)'s first and most important teachers. The OCPS Parent Engagement District Advisory Council (PEDAC) serves as the collective voice of Title I parents and families throughout OCPS. PEDAC meets four times per year and focuses on developing partnerships among parents and families, teachers, administrators and community leaders, in addition to creating and evaluating the OCPS Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan and Title I application.

## **THE FOUNDATION FOR ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools was founded in 1987 by local business and community leaders, and is the sole designated direct support organization of OCPS. As such, it is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and serves as the official philanthropic arm of the district.

The Foundation became part of the Communications division of the district in July 2016. In July 2017, the Community Outreach team, including Partners in Education, ADDitions Volunteers, the Superintendent's Faith-based Advisory Council and other efforts, became part of the Foundation as well. The Foundation successfully optimizes this structure and alignment for positive results.

The Foundation partners with the school board, fellow nonprofits, and all individual and corporate donors to advance its purpose of investing in our children today to strengthen our community tomorrow.

Student success drives all Foundation funding priorities:

- Ensure Learning Readiness – support early childhood education, mental and physical health and wellness, and behavioral improvements (initiatives include Full-Day VPK, A Nurse in Every School and the Homeless Education Fund)
- Invest in Teachers and Staff – provide professional development, impact and innovation grants, and investments in teacher excellence and retention (initiatives include Teacher Impact Grants, Schools of Innovation Grants and the Superintendent's Leadership Fund)
- Accelerate Student Success – focus on literacy, access to STEM, access to the arts and efforts that narrow achievement gaps (initiatives include Read2Succeed, Access to STEM, the Arts Access for All Fund and City Year Orlando)



- Promote Success After OCPS – support career and college readiness efforts, scholarships, mentoring and alumni programs (initiatives include DPC Certified Schools, Scholarship Funds, Hall of Fame and the Super Scholars Success Initiative)
- Drive Community Collaborations – build meaningful relationships and partnerships with OCPS and the community, including serving as a collaboration hub (initiatives include Community Outreach Schools, Partners in Education, ADDition Volunteers and the K-Ready Community Fund)

In addition to raising funds collaboratively with schools and departments to support vital programs, the Foundation handles the annual employee giving campaign, OCPS Gives, and plans and organizes fundraising events such as Top Talent and the For Our Schools golf tournament. It also serves as the fiscal agent for more than 175 school and district funds, and seeks resources to support districtwide initiatives.

### **Invest in Our Schools**

Monetary and in-kind gifts enable the Foundation to support initiatives and programs designed to help students succeed. When you purchase the newly redesigned “Support Education” license tag for your car, \$20 will help support OCPS students, teachers and schools.

For more information or to make a gift, contact the Foundation at 407.317.3261 or visit [www.foundationforocps.org](http://www.foundationforocps.org).

### **2019-20 School Year Impact Report**

Through partnerships with corporations, foundations, small businesses and members of the community, the Foundation provided more than \$2.5 million in support last school year. Annually, the Foundation manages more than \$1.5 million in district and school funds, and more than \$3.6 million in invested funds. Here are just a few examples of impact:

- More than 34,350 students and 262 teachers benefited from Teacher Impact Grants
- Almost 1,400 students strengthened their literacy skills through Read2Succeed
- Girls from all 20 high schools participated in the second annual GenWOW mentoring event
- The second annual Top Talent competition went virtual, drawing support from viewers in 23 states and two countries during its “live” broadcast
- More than 56,700 volunteers contributed 563,300 volunteer hours, which equates to \$13.5 million of in-kind contributions to help support schools and district programs
- More than 2,600 local businesses assisted schools through Partners in Education

We invite you to contact us to discuss how you can invest in Orange County Public Schools and help lead all of our students to success!

### **Volunteering and Partnering at Schools**

Volunteering is a special way to get involved in your child’s education. As an ADDitions School Volunteer, you can contribute by:

- accompanying your child’s class on field trips
- helping as a classroom assistant
- serving on the School Advisory Council (SAC).

Parent volunteers get a close-up view of their child’s school. Seeing how your child is taught also can give you ideas on how to help your child at home.

The Partners in Education program links schools with resources (human and material) through partnerships with businesses and organizations in order to enhance educational excellence. OCPS is always looking for business partners to work with our schools and the district to prepare our young people for a better tomorrow. If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a Partner in Education, visit our online system to sign up today: [www.volunteer.ocps.net](http://www.volunteer.ocps.net).

**Faith-based Initiative**

Faith-based organizations play a pivotal role in the lives of many students in our district. As such, the district manages a Faith-based Adopt-a-School Initiative through the Partners in Education program. Religious institutions are encouraged to put their mission of faith into action by adopting a school. Through this partnership, faith-based organizations, school administrators and parents work together to encourage our students to:

- Stay in school
- Excel at learning
- Celebrate diversity
- Resist peer pressure

To learn more about ways to get involved with the OCPS Faith-based Initiative, please visit [www.faithbasedpartners.ocps.net](http://www.faithbasedpartners.ocps.net) or call 407.317.3323.

**Fraternity & Sorority Community Service**

More than two-thirds of students in the district live in poverty, creating an opportunity to serve K-12 students. Collegiate and alumni fraternity and sorority members are invited to adopt a school for the year. There are endless opportunities to make a difference in the lives of our children, including volunteering as a reading buddy, guest speaker, mentor or tutor, or by coordinating a campus beautification project, food/clothing drive or after school club. For more information, please contact the Foundation's Community Outreach team at 407.317.3323.





Facilities



## **FACILITIES**

### **Building Program Update 2020-21:**

OCPS has one of the largest and most successful school construction programs in the United States. Between 2003 and 2020, 56 new schools have been built and 130 schools have been replaced or renovated. The aggressive construction plan is possible thanks to the half-penny sales tax extended by voters in 2014, plus residential development impact fees and property taxes.

### **Scheduled Openings/Completions for 2020**

Acceleration West (comprehensive renovation) | Boone High School gym/cafeteria (renovation/replacement) | Magnolia School (replacement) | Pinar Elementary School (renovation/replacement) | Rolling Hills Elementary School (renovation/replacement) | Southwest Middle School (comprehensive renovation) | Summerlake Elementary School (new) | Sunshine Elementary School (new) | Vista Pointe Elementary School (new) | Winegard Elementary School (replacement)

### **Scheduled Openings/Completions for 2021**

ESE Learning Center (replacement) | Meadow Woods Middle School (comprehensive renovation) | Site 43-E-SE-2 (new) | Site 80-H-SW-4 (new) | Site 113-H-W-4 (new)

### **Frequently Called Numbers**

After School Programs  
407.317.3383

District Information Office  
407.317.3200

Health Services  
407.317.3200 Ext. 2003409

Lost Device Hotline  
407.317.3290

Records Requests  
407.317.3965

School Board Services  
407.317.3236

Student Enrollment  
407.317.3233

Transportation  
407.317.3800