



ORANGE COUNTY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - Orange County Preparatory Academy (OCA): Charter Non-Renewal

Why is OCPA not renewing its charter?

OCPA has experienced unexpectedly low enrollment for several years. Low enrollment coupled with rising operating expenses has resulted in significant annual operating deficits that cannot be covered going forward. Therefore, the Board is making the difficult decision not to renew the charter agreement with Orange County Public Schools (OCPS). Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, Orlando Science Academies will be assuming the facilities currently occupied by OCPA and operating a K-8 program.

Why make this announcement now?

Many schools of choice begin their application and selection process in November and December for the subsequent school year. The governing board wants OCPA parents to be able to access all opportunities available to their child for the 2024-2025 school year by making this early announcement. According to the Orlando Science Academy website, the K-8 open enrollment window is October 9, 2023 through January 21, 2024. Only applicants making application during this window are included in the January 24, 2024 lottery. Information regarding enrollment and open house activities may be found on the Orlando Science website.

What is OCPA's plan for the current school year?

OCPA will continue operations through the end of the 2023-2024 school year, which is currently scheduled to end May 24, 2024. OCPA will continue providing Edventure Before/After-care and extra-curricular activities through the end of the school year.

Will my student continue to receive services that they are presently receiving?

The school will continue to operate and provide services through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. OCPA has access to mental health services should students wish to address questions or concerns related to the prospect of transitioning to a "new" school for the 2024-2025 school year. These services are initiated upon request made to the student's teacher or to the school's administration.

What school options are available for my student beginning with the 2024-2025 school year?

- Families may find application information for Orlando Science Schools, the school operator occupying the OCPA facility beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, at <https://orlandoscience.org/enrollment/>.
- Information on traditional public schools offered by Orange County Public Schools may be found at https://www.ocps.net/departments/student_enrollment.

What will happen to my student records at the conclusion of the current school year?

Student records will be transferred to your student's new school, upon the school's request. If no request is made by a receiving school, Orange County Public School (OCPS) policy requires OCPA to forward student records to OCPS.

If my child transfers from one school to another, what steps should I take to ensure a smooth transition?

Return all instructional materials and technology that belong to OCPA. Ensure you have obtained all belongings of your student(s). You may request a copy of your student's academic and immunization records from OCPA; however, the new charter school or school district will send a request to the sending school (OCPA) for official student records.

What is being done to retain faculty and staff through the remainder of the year?

Faculty and staff will have an opportunity to earn a “stay-in-place” bonus for continuing their work with students through the end of the 2023-2024 school year. At the conclusion of the school year, faculty and staff may apply for openings with Orlando Science Academy, transfer to another school operated by CSA or continue their career with another organization.

Will I have a guaranteed spot at the new school?

Orlando Science Academy operates under the same charter rules, regulations, and laws as OCPA. These rules, regulations, and laws require potential student applicants to submit a timely application to the charter school of their choice. If the school receives more applicants than space available, a lottery is held to randomly select students from the applicant pool. Selection will depend on the outcome of the lottery.