ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2023

YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

THE SUPERINTENDENT

COMMUNICATIONS

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

FINANCE

HUMAN RESOURCES

OPERATIONS

STUDENT SERVICES

77.6%
Graduation Rate

FREE LUNCH
Provided At All Schools

10.6k
Students Enrolled

903
Support Professionals
Custodians | Food Services,
Secretaries | Bookkeepers | Bus Drivers
District Office Admin | etc.

934
Certified Educators
Teacher | Guidance Counselor
Administrator



WE ARE



3
Career and Technology Centers
Cope Area Career Center
Lake Marion Tech. Center
Orangeburg Career and Technology Center

84.4%
District Poverty Rate Index

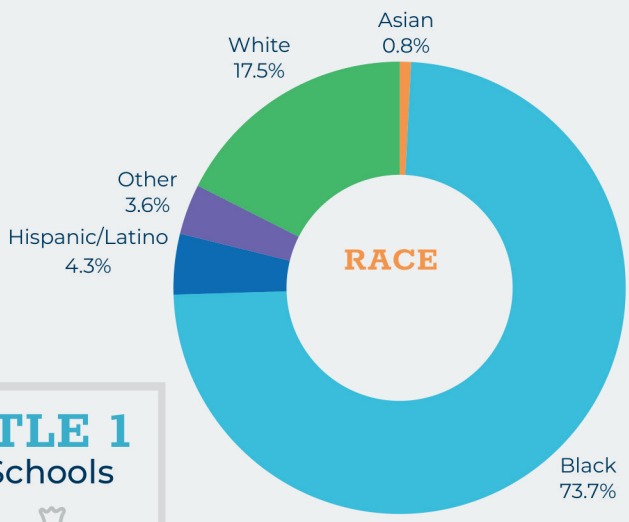
31
Schools
15 Elementary
4 Middle
3 Middle/High
4 High
3 Tech
2 Alternative

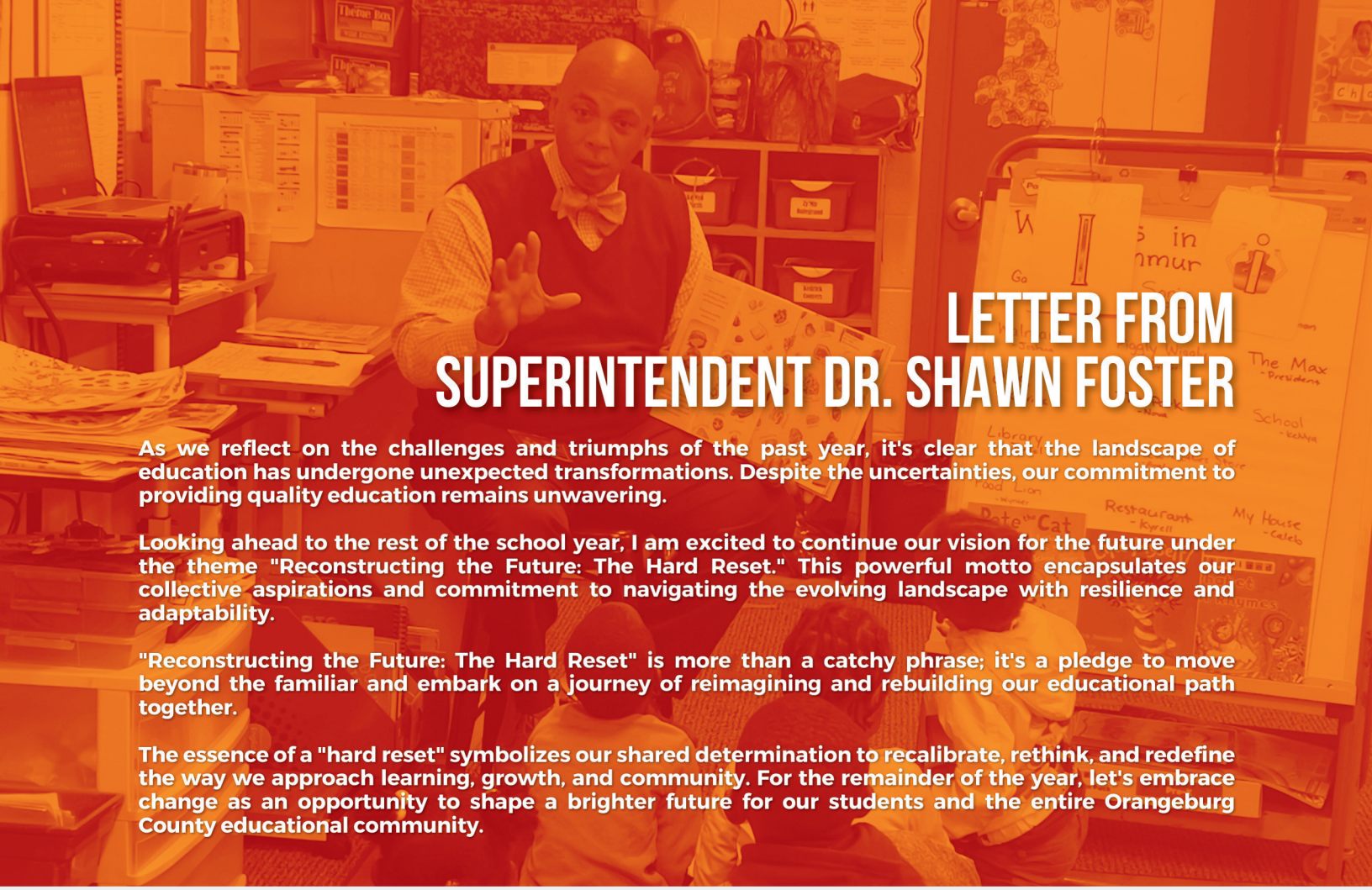


TITLE 1
All Schools



17
Languages Spoken
English | Spanish | Chinese | Hindi | Gujarati
Tagalog | Bisaya | Cebuano | Arabic | Telugu
Amharic | Hebrew | Hmong | French
Mandarin | Bengali | Vietnamese





LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. SHAWN FOSTER

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, it's clear that the landscape of education has undergone unexpected transformations. Despite the uncertainties, our commitment to providing quality education remains unwavering.

Looking ahead to the rest of the school year, I am excited to continue our vision for the future under the theme "Reconstructing the Future: The Hard Reset." This powerful motto encapsulates our collective aspirations and commitment to navigating the evolving landscape with resilience and adaptability.

"Reconstructing the Future: The Hard Reset" is more than a catchy phrase; it's a pledge to move beyond the familiar and embark on a journey of reimagining and rebuilding our educational path together.

The essence of a "hard reset" symbolizes our shared determination to recalibrate, rethink, and redefine the way we approach learning, growth, and community. For the remainder of the year, let's embrace change as an opportunity to shape a brighter future for our students and the entire Orangeburg County educational community.

MISSION

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by:

- a culture of collaboration, equity and inclusion
- a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities
- a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all.

BELIEFS

- honoring individuality through respect and empathy empowers and promotes acceptance, which builds family and community.
- effective communication is key to understanding others.
- purpose is the core of existence.
- moral values shape who we are
- a servant's heart encompasses love that is manifested in action and deed toward self and mankind.
- freedom is an inherent right.
- time is life's most valuable asset.
- growth mindset is necessary to adapt and embrace change.
- everyone deserves equal access to opportunities.
- a global perspective is necessary to prepare people to thrive.

SUPERINTENDENT HIGHLIGHTS

INAUGURAL STATE OF THE DISTRICT

In a momentous occasion marking its first-ever State of the District Address, the Orangeburg County School District celebrated a year of accomplishments and outlined key areas for improvement. Superintendent Dr. Foster, at the helm of this educational journey, shed light on the four pivotal areas of focus: facility repairs, financial improvement, recruitment and retention, and technology and instruction. This comprehensive approach aimed to enhance the overall educational experience for students and strengthen the district's foundation.

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH

LEADERSHIP ACADEMY GRADUATION



ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The first cohort of our district's Leadership Academy has graduated, marking a significant milestone in leadership development. This groundbreaking program, meticulously designed to equip aspiring leaders with essential tools and skills, covered a comprehensive curriculum spanning communication, problem-solving, team-building, and decision-making.

With pride, we announce the successful completion of the program by the inaugural cohort, now prepared to embrace new challenges and opportunities in leadership roles within our schools and community.

As we bid farewell to Cohort 1, OCSD eagerly welcomes 25 new candidates selected for Cohort 2. Anticipation is high for the continued positive impact these emerging leaders will undoubtedly bring to our district and beyond. The journey of leadership excellence at OCSD continues, shaping the future of education and community engagement.



CONVOCATION

"THE CONVOCATION IS MUCH MORE THAN A ROUTINE GATHERING; IT IS A SYMBOL OF UNITY, SHARED AMBITION, AND OUR RELENTLESS COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING THE BEST EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS... THE THEME, 'RECONSTRUCTING THE FUTURE: THE HARD RESET,' EMBODIES OUR RESOLUTE DETERMINATION TO REBUILD AND REINVIGORATE OUR EDUCATIONAL PRACTICES IN RESPONSE TO CHANGING TIMES."

-SUPERINTENDENT, DR. SHAWN FOSTER

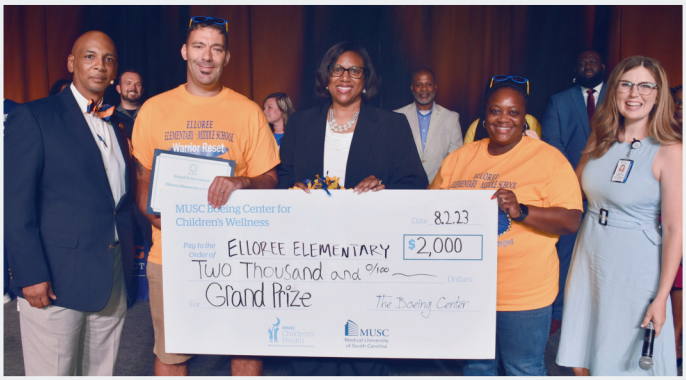
In a spectacular start to the 2023-2024 academic year, the Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) hosted its annual District Convocation at the Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center. The event, themed "Reconstructing the Future: The Hard Reset," drew a crowd of over 2,000 participants, including faculty, staff, and community members, united in their commitment to reshape the future of education.

The highlight of the day was a captivating address by renowned motivational speaker, Prince EA, who shared compelling insights on embracing change and charting a new course for education. The electrifying atmosphere set the tone for a transformative academic year.

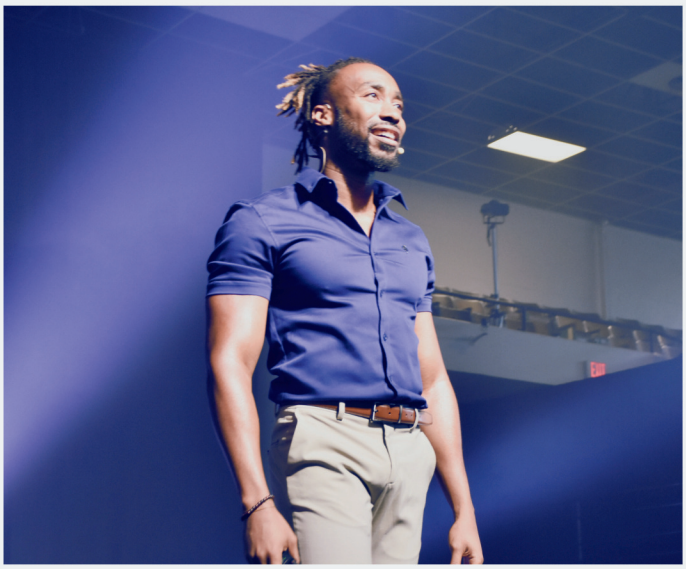




Adding to the excitement, more than 20 schools within the district received substantial grants from the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Responding generously to a health challenge, these grants will empower schools to enhance their health and wellness programs, fostering a healthier and more supportive school environment.



Post-Convocation, the celebration continued at the Orangeburg Fairground, where over 30 food vendors treated attendees to a delightful lunch. This joyous gathering not only marked the conclusion of the Convocation but also provided a platform for staff to connect on a personal level, fostering camaraderie that will undoubtedly contribute to a successful and fulfilling school year ahead. The OCSD's commitment to innovation and collaboration is poised to make a lasting impact on the education landscape, setting the stage for a year of growth and achievement.



HOLLY HILL LITTLE THEATER DONATION

In a heartwarming gesture, the Orangeburg County School District received $12,000 donation from the Holly Hill Little Theater.

This philanthropic gesture specifically targets the Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School, with funds dedicated to providing loaner instruments for aspiring musicians who may lack the means to acquire their own.

Teresa Hinnant, a board member of the Holly Hill Little Theater, expressed, "It's with profound gratitude and a hopeful heart that we redirect our dream to support the next generation. We believe that music has the power to change lives, and we're delighted to give these children a chance to find their rhythm."



PRINCIPAL OF THE MONTH INITIATIVE







"THIS NEW INITIATIVE TO RECOGNIZE OUR STANDOUT PRINCIPALS IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. THE FOUNDATION OF ANY GREAT SCHOOL DISTRICT LIES IN ITS LEADERSHIP..."

-SUPERINTENDENT, DR. SHAWN FOSTER

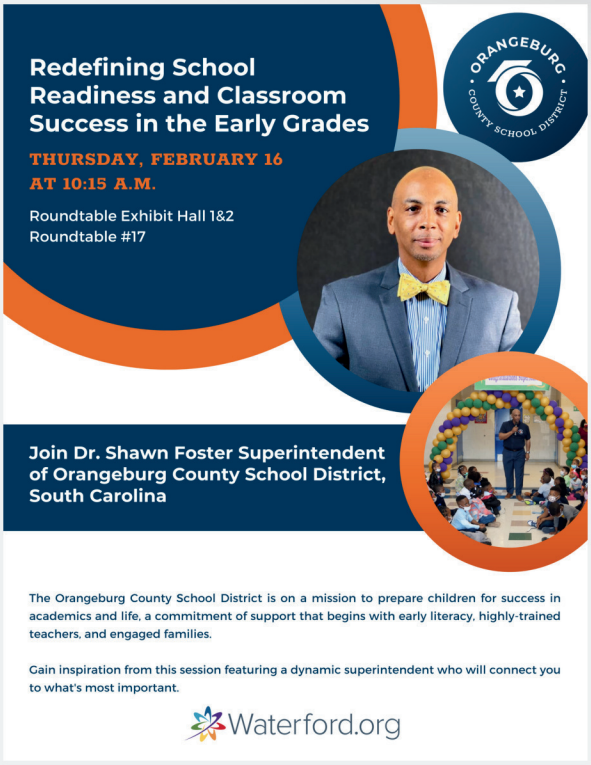




OW STUDENTS AT COLUMBIA'S BLACK EXPO

Recognizing the potential of the next generation of business leaders, OCSD has donated business cards and retractable banners to Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School students who own small businesses, providing them with the tools needed to make a lasting impression at the prestigious Black Expo in Columbia, SC. This gesture provided these budding entrepreneurs with essential tools to enhance their visibility and make a lasting impression at this event.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS



In a move to shine a spotlight on the outstanding programs and initiatives implemented within the Orangeburg County School District, Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster has taken the helm, presenting at prestigious national conferences and summits. This strategic move aims to bring national and state-level attention to the innovative educational practices taking root in OCSD and to promote collaboration with esteemed organizations such as The National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET), the US Department of Education, EVERFI, Waterford, and The School Superintendents Association.

COMMUNICATIONS, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

BY THE NUMBERS


ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
102 Founders Court - Orangeburg, SC 29118
Phone: (803) 534-5404

Thursday, April 27, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Dr. Erica S. Taylor
Assistant Superintendent for Communications
and Business and Community Partnerships
erica.taylor@ocsdsc.org

Dr. Shawn Foster with student and principal from Bethune-Bowman Middle/High

Orangeburg County School District Lauds the 'Top Ten Percent of the 2023 Graduating Seniors' during the inaugural celebration

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Orangeburg County School District celebrated and honored the ...demic achievement of students in the 'Top Ten Percent' of the 2023 graduating cla... ...than 70 OCSD students were honored during the inaugural event – consisting ... ...that included live music, dinner, a message of inspiration and hope, ...to celebrate with families and OCSD leaders.

...banquet was created to recognize the ... ...Percent" of OCSD 2023 grad...

96

PRESS RELEASES IN A YEAR

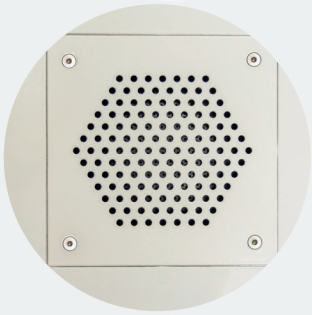
On average a press release is sent every 36 hours.

7,640

NEW DEVICES ISSUED TO STUDENTS

Pk-2nd : 2,753 New iPads
3rd-8th : 4,887 New Chromebooks





11

INTERCOM SYSTEMS UPDATED

48

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE REQUESTS COMPLETED


...UNICATIONS,
...MUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
...ICE REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Email to: public.relations@ocsdsc.org

Requestor :
Contact Number :
Department :
Date :

REQUESTED SERVICE

Editorial Services - reviewing press releases, media advisories, and copy editing (10 business days prior to the desired date of delivery)

Photography (5-7 business days prior to desired date of service)

Design and Review Services - reviewing brochures, pamphlets, booklets (10 business days prior to the desired date of delivery)

OCSD Social Media and Web Content Changes - creating new pages or updating content on external website and Internet (10 business days prior to the desired date of delivery)

Video Services - production, taping, editing (15 business days prior to the desired date of delivery)
*15-day window is for basic video services only; please consult with video staff for advanced video needs

Audio/Visual Services - microphones, sound system (7-10 business days prior to event)

...dia - media training and interview coordination and creation

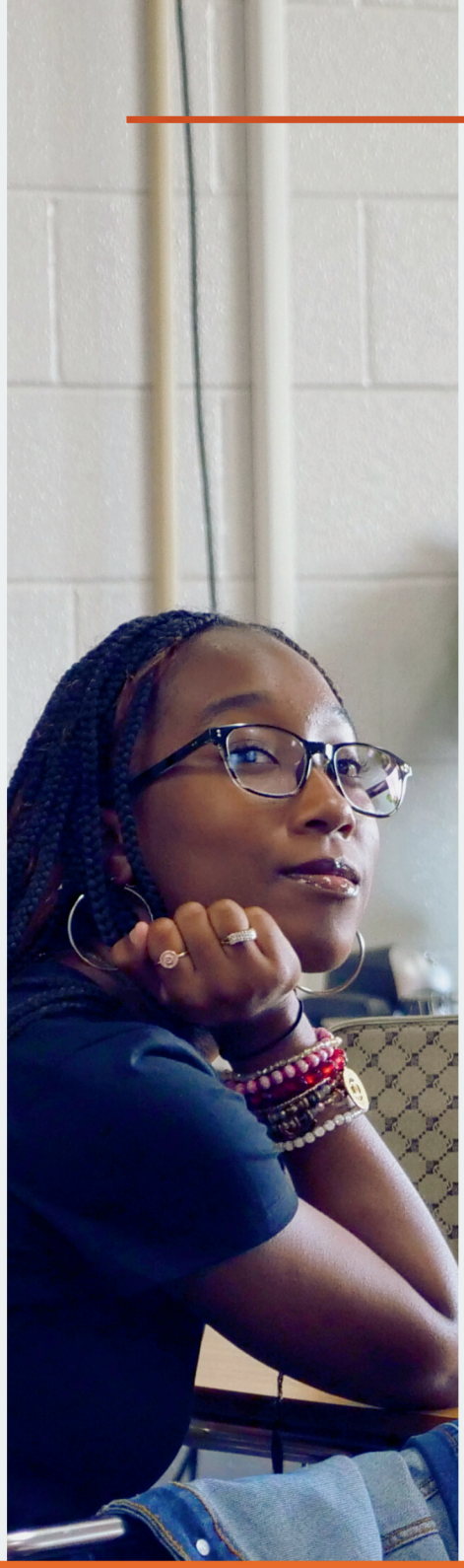
...Marketing/Communications Plans (30 business days prior to the desired date of ...


...y school District
...visitor · November 16 at 3:58 PM ·
...Gear Day!
...these some pics from our College Gear Day! OCSD rocked their college ...
...It was a blast. So much spirit in one place! 🧡💙
...a picture in your college gear?Drop a comment below!

1,175

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS THIS YEAR

On average 6.5 posts go out daily.



COMMUNICATIONS, BUSINESS & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

DR. IRENE MYERS GRANTS

This year, the Dr. Irene H. Myers Education Grant is poised to grant $30,000 to OCSD teachers and staff. This dedicated funding aims to nurture inventive ideas and facilitate unique learning experiences.

Established in memory of Dr. Myers, who devoted 45 years to public education in the community, the grant serves as a tribute to her enduring legacy of service.

Administered by the local education foundation, the OCSD Education Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, plays a pivotal role in driving this initiative.

The dispersal of these funds is expected to usher in a wave of creativity and opportunity, promising to enhance the educational landscape of classrooms in the foreseeable future.

MUSC PARTNERSHIP

MUSC Health
Medical University of South Carolina

OCSD and MUSC Health Sports Medicine are reshaping the landscape of sports safety and athletic health services in the region. The collaboration underscores a shared commitment to the wellbeing of student-athletes, ensuring they receive unparalleled care. MUSC Health Sports Medicine will provide OCSD with dedicated athletic trainers and sports medicine services, setting a gold standard for sports safety in Orangeburg County. The partnership extends beyond the academic year, covering summer months and home varsity football games, with a vision to expand daily on-site sports medicine coverage throughout the year.

An integral aspect of this collaboration is the swift access to MUSC Health services for injured or ill athletes and coaches, minimizing downtime and facilitating immediate intervention for quicker recoveries. The program also prioritizes injury prevention education, equipping the OCSD community with expert insights to emphasize safety while pushing the boundaries of athletic excellence.

BOEING



Orangeburg County School District has partnered with BOEING to take students of all grade levels on field experiences to the BOEING facility in Charleston, SC. We forward to future collaborations with this global corporation.



NAMING PROCESS FOR EAST LAKE ELEMENTARY



In adherence to Board Policy, OCSD established a Naming Committee for the new school in the eastern region of Orangeburg County. The committee, including principals, teachers, support staff, parents, and community members from Eutawville, Holly Hill, and Vance, decided on East Lake Elementary School Eagles. The name, mascot, and colors (kelly green, royal blue, and gold) were chosen based on a public survey that received over 230 submissions.



TRANSITION OF FACILITY OWNERSHIP

Preparing for future mergers and closures, the Orangeburg County School District faced the challenge of repurposing facilities. Taking a proactive approach, OCSD successfully identified partners willing to utilize several school locations. Currently, six schools— the Core building, Nix Elementary, Rivelon Elementary, Holly Hill Roberts Middle, St. James-Gaillard Elementary, and Vance-Providence Elementary—have found new occupants through collaborative efforts.

The partners involved in this strategic initiative include Orangeburg County, along with the towns of Eutawville, Holly Hill, and Vance. By engaging with these entities, OCSD ensures that the vacant school facilities continue to serve meaningful purposes within the community.











RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVING THE DONATION OF REAL PROPERTY AND FIXTURES OWNED BY ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Orangeburg County School District currently owns land and fixtures thereon known as the old Rivelon Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the District does not have any need for this land and the fixtures thereon; and

WHEREAS, the District has been and continues to be responsible for maintaining this property and incurring related costs; and

WHEREAS, the property referenced herein is not needed and will not be needed in the future for educational and administrative services according to the District's facilities plans; and

WHEREAS, the County of Orangeburg wants to assume ownership of this property so that the County may use it as a community center or in another suitable manner for the benefit of the community and citizens of Orangeburg County, including parents, students, employees, and families of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Orangeburg County School District Board of Trustees is willing to donate this property to the County of Orangeburg ("County) for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, the District is authorizing the District to transfer this property to the County "as is" without any representations or warranties of any kind regarding the condition of the property and the fixtures thereon, including no representations or warranties regarding any potential environmental conditions that may exist, if any, in the building or on the property; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of this donation, the County must agree to accept the property "as is" without any warranties and that it will not seek to hold the Board, the District, or any of their employees/agents liable for any injuries or claims related to or that may arise from the property or the fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the District also will benefit from the donation of this property because it will no longer be obligated to maintain the property and fixtures thereon and will not continue to incur the associated costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orangeburg County School District Board of Trustees does hereby grant its approval to the Orangeburg County School District to donate the property and fixtures referenced herein to the County of Orangeburg to be used solely to provide services to the community; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the donation of this property will not have a negative impact on any other School District facility or site; and

BE IT RESOLVED that, subject to and after obtaining any required regulatory approvals and meeting any other legal requirements for the approval of this property transfer, the Orangeburg County School District Superintendent is authorized to execute a deed conveying the property referenced herein and any fixtures thereon to the County, with the deed to be executed at a later time mutually agreed upon by the County and the District, and to execute any other documents or instruments necessary to complete this property donation.

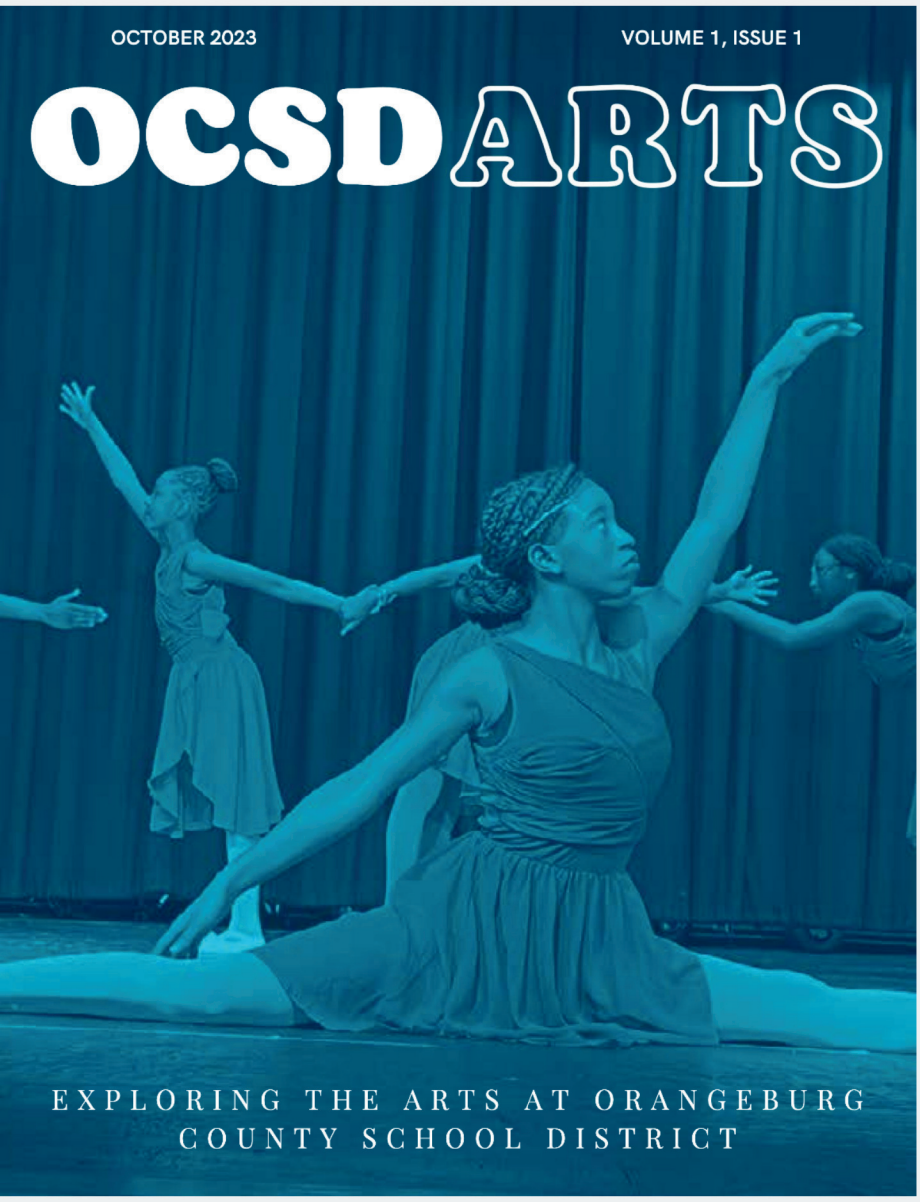
Adopted by the Orangeburg County School District Board of Trustees.

_____
Ruby Edwards, Board Chair
Orangeburg County School District
Board of Trustees

_____
Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent
Orangeburg County School District

_____
Date

_____
Date



OCSD ARTS MAGAZINE

Orangeburg County School District has unveiled the "OCSD Arts" digital magazine, a quarterly celebration of students' outstanding talents in art, music, dance, and more.

With a focus on nurturing artistic gifts, "OCSD Arts" serves as a showcase for the creative spirit thriving within Orangeburg County schools. Driven by the belief that art has the power to inspire and tell untold stories, the digital magazine aims to connect students, educators, parents, and the community, becoming the cultural heartbeat of the district.

Deedra Wright, OCSD Related Arts Coordinator, expressed that "Art has the power to move, inspire, and tell stories that might otherwise go unheard. Through this digital magazine, we are amplifying the voices of our young artists and showcasing the diversity and depth of talent in our district,"



SCAN QR CODE TO VIEW THE LATEST ISSUE

SCBDA CHAMPIONS FOR PUBLIC EDUCATIONS



In the realm of exceptional individuals, Marcus Johnson shines as a beacon of dedication and community involvement. Recently honored with the "Champions for Education" award by the South Carolina School Board Association, Johnson's commitment to public education and community enrichment has set him apart. OCSD and the Board of Trustees proudly nominated him for this accolade. Beyond his roles as the owner of Nissan of Orangeburg and the CEO of Johnson Automotive Group, Johnson's philanthropic efforts in Orangeburg are truly remarkable. His generosity secured year-long billboard contracts for OCSD, valued at nearly $53,000, amplifying the district's reach and influence. Additionally, his "Teacher Supply Closet" initiative exemplifies his heartfelt dedication to ensuring educators have access to essential teaching supplies.

VILLAGE FEST COLLABORATION



Unity Fellowship Community Church came alive with vibrant energy as families and friends gathered for the annual Village Fest. Notable vendors, including Orangeburg County School District personnel, Orangeburg Sheriff's Office, Orangeburg Public Safety, and MUSC Medical Orangeburg personnel, showcased a collaborative effort to enhance the well-being of Orangeburg.



COMMUNITY PASTOR AFFILIATION

Faith-based leaders from various parts of the county have collaborated with the Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) to initiate several impactful projects. These endeavors are focused on fostering educational development, personal growth, and community engagement among students in Orangeburg County.



One noteworthy initiative, hosted at New Mount Zion, is the introduction of Education Days—a special Sunday dedicated to the children of Orangeburg County. Additionally, New Mount Zion has partnered with 21st-century programs to engage middle school students. Through mentorship and hands-on participation, these leaders contribute to the development of crucial life skills and serve as positive role models for adolescents navigating the challenges of adolescence.

The commitment of faith-based leaders extends beyond the regular school year, with active involvement in summer enrichment programs. Good Shepherd Community Ministries, for example, has designed a summer enrichment program to keep students engaged in meaningful activities during the break, ensuring a continuous and well-rounded learning experience.

Faith-based leaders are also pivotal supporters of OCSD's new infrastructure projects. New Way Church, for instance, has been a staunch supporter of the new facilities and upgrades in the eastern region of Orangeburg County. They actively participate in discussions and initiatives aimed at enhancing the learning environment for students.

Mentorship programs play a crucial role in the faith-based leaders' commitment to the community. Three Crosses Outreach exemplifies this through one-on-one relationships, providing guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear to students facing various challenges.

Collectively, the faith-based leaders engaged in these projects share a common goal—to be integral contributors to the academic success and personal growth of students in Orangeburg County, spanning from PreK to graduation. Their collaborative efforts reflect a commitment to creating a positive and nurturing environment for the community's youth, leaving a lasting impact on the educational landscape of Orangeburg County.

TEACHER APPRECIATION CUPCAKES

A coordinated effort during Teacher Appreciation Week meant to spread joy with a treat to all Faculty and Staff. This sweet gesture not only satisfied taste buds but also served as a delightful reminder of the collective appreciation for the invaluable contributions made by OCSD's teaching community.







EMPLOYEE PERKS PROGRAM GROWTH

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMPLOYEE PERKS PROGRAM

OCSD is ensuring its staff has a treasure trove of benefits to choose from. Whether it's local gems or national favorites, the enhanced perks program aims to add an extra layer of appreciation for the hard work our team does. Employees are encouraged to explore the array of offerings on the OCSD website, where a world of exciting benefits awaits.

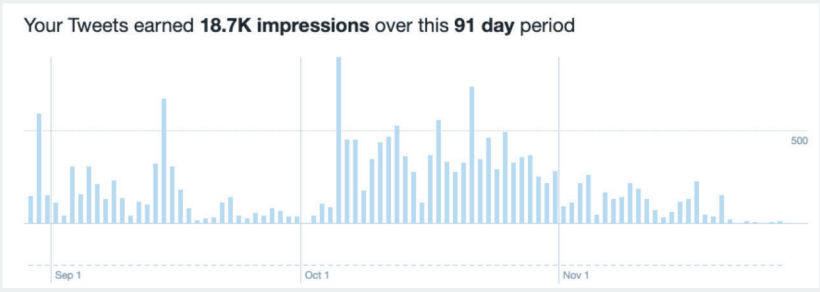
This program is a testament to OCSD's commitment to creating a rewarding workplace experience for its dedicated staff.

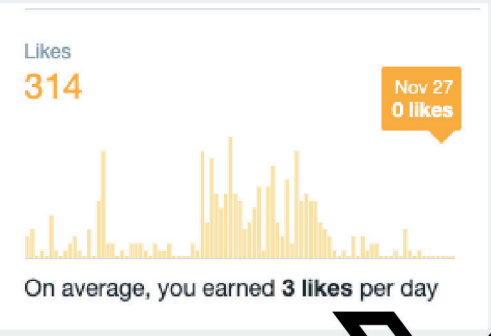


SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE ANALYTICS

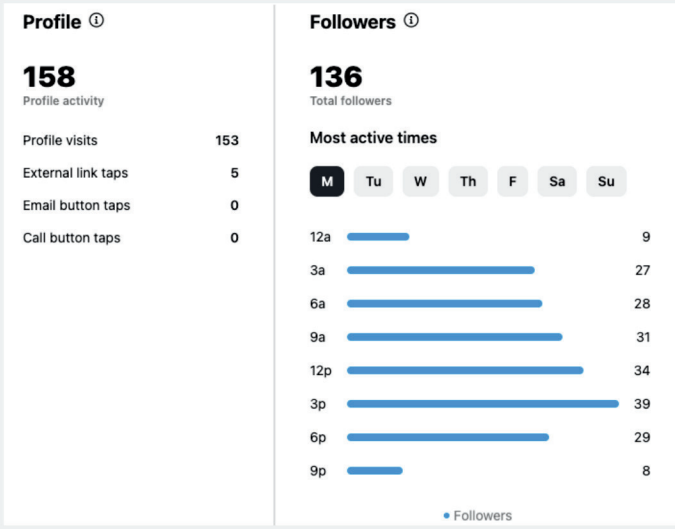


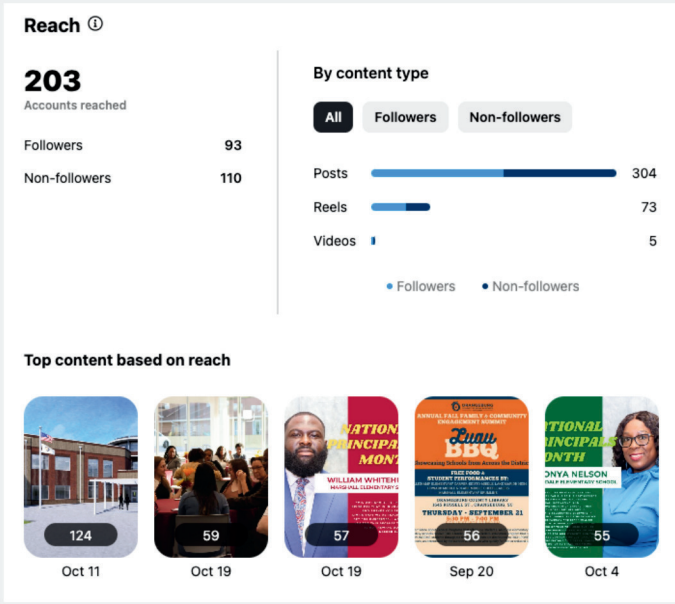
Over the past year, OCSD has reached unprecedented heights, with nearly 1,855 visits per day to the district's website. This significant figure underscores the community's increasing reliance on digital platforms for accessing vital information and obtaining updates, resources, and contact information. and staying connected.





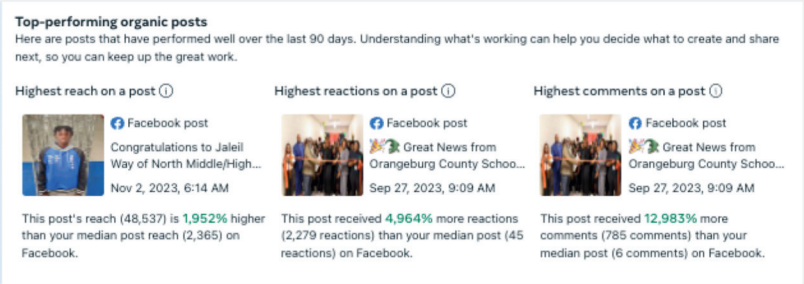
In the realm of social media, OCSD has established a commendable presence. OCSD's Twitter account, a vital channel for real-time updates, has been receiving an average of three likes per day. Beyond mere likes, the overall reach on Twitter has been impressive, with an astounding 18.7 thousand impressions.

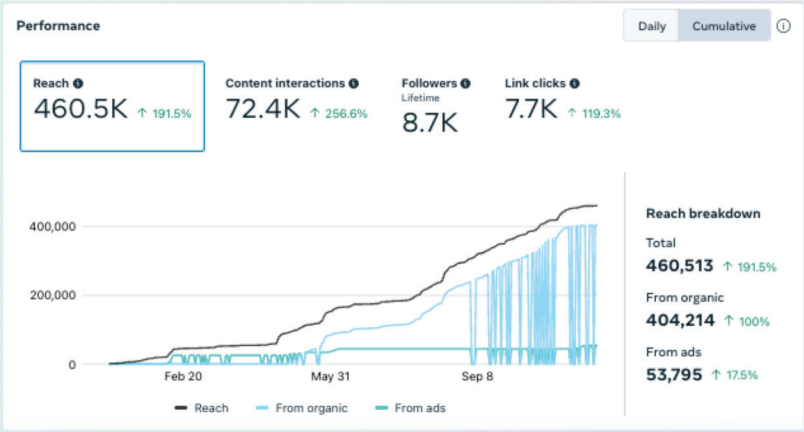




Venturing into the world of visual content, OCSD embraced Instagram in the past year, amassing 136 followers within its inaugural year. OCSD's presence on Instagram extends beyond follower count, with a reach of 208 accounts and an impressive 382 posts. The combination of visually appealing content and strategic outreach has not only attracted followers but has also contributed to a broader community outreach effort, effectively leveraging the platform for communication and community building.

facebook







Page	Page likes	Page likes...	Published content
Orangeburg County School District Follow us on all our platforms! https://linktr.ee/ocsdsc	7.4K	↑ 68	41
Richland County School District One We are Richland One, a leader in transforming lives through educatio...	11.5K	↑ 26	119
Lexington County School District One Official page of Lexington County School District One. Empowering e...	2.8K	↑ 15	25
Richland School District Two Richland Two strives to be the premier school district — a learning a...	11.6K	↑ 15	39
Charleston County School District Our mission is to educate and support every child in achieving colleg...	28.7K	↑ 10	50
Aiken County Public School District Literacy-focused district distinguished by personalized learning opp...	16.8K	↑ 4	14
Lexington School District Two Lexington Two is composed of 14 neighborhood schools serving 5 Le...	6.1K	↓ 1	93

The district's Facebook page, a hub for updates and community interaction, has reached an impressive 460.5 thousand accounts. This substantial figure underscores the page's role as a vital source of information and connection for a broad audience. With a remarkable 72.4 thousand comments, post reactions, and shares, the community actively participates in the online dialogue, contributing to a vibrant and engaged virtual community.

The district's popularity on Facebook is further highlighted by its growing follower count, which stands at 8.7 thousand. A key indicator of the effectiveness of OCSD's content is the 7.7 thousand link clicks received this year. This metric underscores the community's eagerness to explore and engage with tangible content shared by the district.

Perhaps most noteworthy is OCSD's achievement in garnering the highest positive page reactions compared to surrounding districts. This accolade reflects not only the quantity but also the quality of the engagement, with the community responding positively to the district's online presence.

TELLING OCSD'S STORY





OCSD has embarked on a dynamic news-sharing initiative across social media platforms. With campaigns like "Fostering OCSD," "In the Spotlight," and "The Stories of OCSD," the district is weaving a tapestry of uplifting narratives, sharing positive stories and events that unfold across this vibrant community. This proactive approach not only highlights the achievements and milestones within OCSD but also promotes a sense of connection and pride among its members. Stay tuned for a cascade of inspiring tales as OCSD continues to amplify the good news through these engaging social media campaigns.

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH SEGMENTS ON YOUTUBE

SRNS MINI GRANTS



OCSD educators were awarded more than $10,500 in Innovative Teaching Mini Grants from Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC. The Innovative Teaching Mini-Grants Program, a competitive program, recognizes and celebrates innovative teaching methods by providing funds to enhance elementary, middle, and high school curricula.

Public and private school educators in Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, Orangeburg, Columbia, and Richmond counties were invited to submit a $500, $750, or $1000 mini-grant application. In OCSD, 17 educators received a grant.

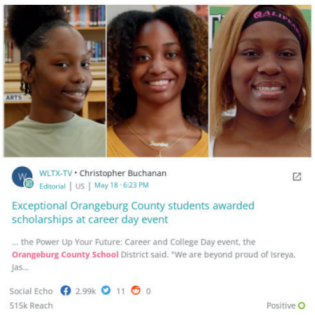
MELTWATER

What is the top performing news content?

Top Article by Reach



Top Article by Social Echo

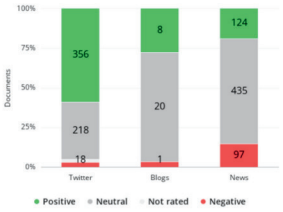


How favorable is the content?

Sentiment Share of Voice



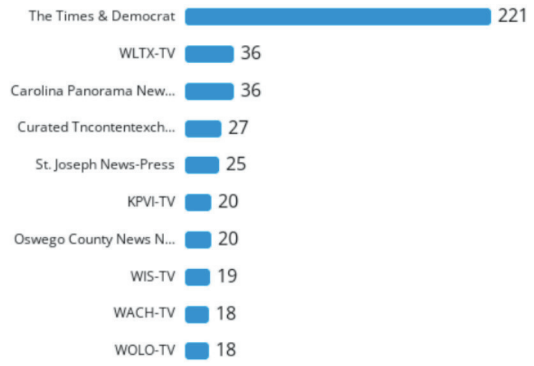
Sentiment by Source Type



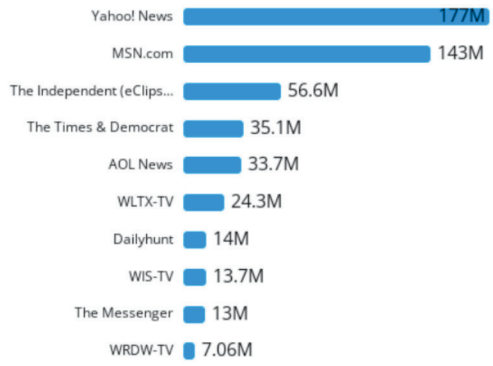
Meltwater was introduced to Orangeburg County School District in 2022, providing the District with media monitoring and intelligence services. This addition has enabled the District to track and analyze news stories and social media trends that are important to the educational system. With Meltwater's tools, the district is well-equipped to stay informed about public perception, emerging educational trends, and relevant policy developments. Meltwater assists Orangeburg County School District in making more informed decisions and enhancing community engagement, all of which are crucial for delivering an exceptional educational experience.

What are the top publishers?

Top Publications by Volume

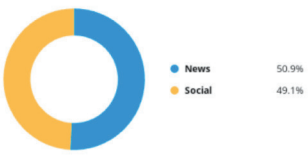


Top Publications by Reach

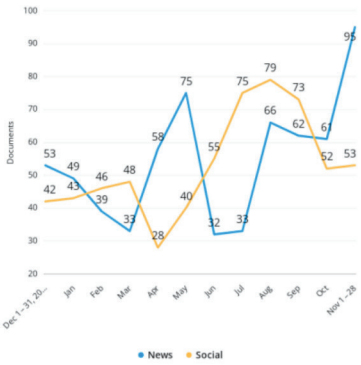


How does the earned media break down?

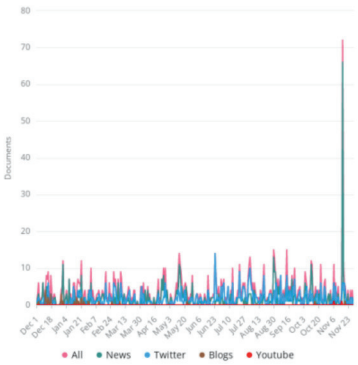
Share of Voice by Search



Mentions Trend



Mentions Trend by Source Type



GROUNDBREAKINGS















Orangeburg County School District is in full construction swing with a remarkable series of groundbreaking ceremonies. Noteworthy projects include the turf fields at Edisto High, HKT Middle/High, Bethune-Bowman Middle/High, and Lake Marion High. Additionally, the district is expanding with two new middle school additions at W.J. Clark Middle and Lake Marion High School, along with the highly anticipated unveiling of a brand-new elementary school in the eastern region. Looking ahead, OCSD has more milestones in the pipeline, with plans to break ground on Branchville High's turf field on December 11, 2023. Stay tuned as OCSD continues to shape the future of education infrastructure, with further groundbreaking announcements, including the much-awaited Orangeburg-Wilkinson High.

ADVANCEMENTS IN SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY

OCSD has embraced innovative measures to enhance security and streamline operations across its campuses. One notable initiative introduced at the beginning of the academic year is the new visitor sign-in system. This system, equipped with a mini background check feature, allows schools to monitor and regulate access to their premises more effectively.

In tandem with the focus on safety, OCSD has implemented an eFax system, streamlining communication processes within the district. This digital enhancement not only improves efficiency but also aligns with contemporary communication trends

Acknowledging the importance of providing a secure online environment, the district has introduced content filters for devices connected to the district's WiFi. This proactive approach ensures that inappropriate content is filtered out, promoting a safer digital space for students and staff alike.

OCSD has invested in the modernization of communication systems. Intercom systems at several schools, including Dover Elementary, Branchville High, Lockett Elementary, Edisto High, Edisto Elementary, Edisto Primary, Sheridan, Lake Marion, Elloree, HKT Campus, and Carver Edisto Middle, have been updated. Furthermore, all middle school devices have undergone necessary updates to ensure they meet current technological standards.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NEW VISITOR SIGN-IN



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS



PASSED DUAL CREDIT COURSES SINCE CONSOLIDATION

3,084



9

MAGNET/GT PROGRAMS

5 Elementary
3 Middle
1 High



CTE PROGRAMS OFFERED ACROSS THREE FACILITIES

34

21

22-23 SC SEALS OF BILITERACY





STUDENTS WITH PERFECT SCORES ON STATE TESTING

61

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OCSD'S C&I DEPARTMENT



CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

OCSD FALL 2023 AWARDS BANQUET

OCSD proudly celebrated the accomplishments of 61 outstanding students at their annual Awards Banquet on October 17. Surpassing last year's commendable feat of nearly 40 students, this event held at the Orangeburg County Library and Conference Center recognized 61 elementary, middle, and high school students who achieved perfect scores on the SCREADY assessment and End of Course Exams.

The SCREADY assessment, a statewide evaluation in English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics for grades 3–8, is a pivotal benchmark as per the Education Accountability Act. Simultaneously, the End of Course Exams (EOCEP) serve as a statewide program assessing gateway courses in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

The evening was not only a testament to academic excellence but also a showcase of remarkable student talent. Two exceptional piano students from W.J. Clark Middle School, Kaori Jamison and Cameron Rivers, captivated the audience with their mesmerizing performances of Bach's "Air on G String" and Gershwin's "I've Got Rhythm," respectively. Adding to the inspiration of the night, Mrs. Latisha Walker, esteemed Orangeburg County Councilwoman, shared motivational and grounding words with the students and guests.

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH

ORANGEBURG ADVANCED COLLEGE

As the academic year unfolds, Orangeburg Advanced College (OAC) Scholars are embracing the challenges of dual enrollment. 19 scholars in Cohort 1 and 38 in Cohort 2, are making gains towards earning their associate's degree, alongside their high school curriculum.

A noteworthy highlight for Cohort 1 was a field experience to Washington, DC, where they explored the National Museum of African American History & Culture and engaged in an intimate conversation with Phylicia Rashad at Howard University. Phylicia Rashad, honoring Chadwick Boseman, dedicated a fine arts building, showcasing the deep impact of art and education.

Undergoing a transformative Field Study in Charleston, SC, scholars from both Cohort 1 and Cohort 2 established connections between historical monuments and their US History coursework. Additionally, as a guest speaker, Dr. Cheryl Cummings, President-Elect of the South Carolina Clinical Mental Health Counselors Association, provided valuable insights on "Social Media & its Effects on Self-Esteem."

Claflin University Honors College Mentors and Call Me Misters, mentored Cohort 1 scholars.

Looking ahead, the OAC team selected 23 outstanding scholars for Cohort 3, setting the stage for another year of academic excellence and community building. The Orangeburg Advanced College Scholars program continues to redefine educational boundaries and shape the leaders of tomorrow.








Coca-Cola
Colored Pencils
Pre-Sharpened
MLP

MULTILINGUAL LEARNER PROGRAM

Demonstrating a dedication to both inclusivity and academic excellence, Orangeburg County School District places its Multilingual Learner Program, supported by Title III funding, at the forefront. This federal initiative identifies students entering schools with limited English proficiency, offering research-based instructional services tailored to meet the linguistic and academic needs of Multilingual Learners (MLs) from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

As of the latest data, OCSD proudly embraces 367 Multilingual Learners, spanning 17 languages across the district. A remarkable 25 schools actively participate in and benefit from the multilingual program services. The impact of this program is not just quantitative but extends into notable achievements. In June, 67 students successfully exited the program, showcasing the efficacy of the support provided. Among these success stories, Reyna Ramos, a former program participant, earned the prestigious title of Valedictorian at Bethune-Bowman Middle/High. 21 MLP students received the South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy. Furthermore, five students achieved perfect scores on the state End of Course exams, a testament to the program's dedication to unlocking the full potential of every Multilingual Learner. The Multilingual Learner Program at OCSD stands as a beacon of educational empowerment, fostering success and academic achievement for students of diverse linguistic backgrounds.

















SENIOR SCHOLAR BANQUET

Orangeburg County School District celebrated and honored the academic achievement of students in the 'Top Ten Percent' of the 2023 graduating class. Over 70 OCSD students were recognized during the inaugural event, which included live music, dinner, a message of inspiration and hope, and the opportunity to celebrate with families and OCSD leaders.

The senior scholar banquet was established to acknowledge the academic accomplishments of the 'Top Ten Percent' of OCSD's 2023 graduating scholars. These students, who have excelled in both the classroom and their communities, are academically gifted. All honored scholars will pursue higher education, and collectively, they have been awarded nearly 8 million dollars in scholarship funds.

Charles P. Austin Sr., the police chief of Orangeburg Department of Public Safety, shared words of encouragement during the event. He unequivocally challenged the students to make wise decisions in their choices and friendships. Simultaneously, he urged them to dream big, dare to be great, and contribute to making the world a little bit better through their actions.

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH



$842K USDA RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE GRANT

The Orangeburg Connection, a rural development investment, will be used to equip ten hub/hub-end and end-user site(s) throughout Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), which is headquartered in the county of Orangeburg in Orangeburg, SC.

In addition, OCSD Directors of Virtual School Education and Student Support Services will partner with Tri-County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (TCCADA) and Edisto Health Coalition (E.H.C.) to deliver mental health and substance abuse disorder education using real-time interactive distance education equipment at ten sites to benefit over 10,000 students and the citizens of Orangeburg County.

The grant also provides three regional sites for telemedicine access to meet the needs of residents who live more than 30 miles away from mental health and medical services.

The District will provide a total of $148,714.61 in cash as matching funds toward the total project of $991,403.74.

SUMMER GRADUATION

On July 19, 2023, summer commencement exercises were held at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College. The event marked a significant milestone for eleven bright and accomplished students from three OCSD high schools: Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle/High, Lake Marion High, and Orangeburg-Wilkinson High.

For the graduates of Hunter-Kinard-Tyler, Lake Marion, and Orangeburg-Wilkinson high schools, the ceremony not only signified the end of one chapter but also the beginning of a new journey. The graduates, as they walked across the stage, carried with them not only a diploma but a sense of accomplishment and the promise of a bright future. As they navigated the challenges of high school, these students demonstrated resilience, perseverance, and a commitment to their education that set them apart.

With diplomas in hand and dreams in their hearts, these graduates are now poised to make their mark on the world.





GIFTED & TALENTED

The OCSD Gifted and Talented Program, led by the Curriculum and Instruction Division, has successfully implemented magnet academies in four elementary schools and three middle schools. With a focus on providing a specialized educational approach, improving achievement, and promoting diversity, the program has achieved significant success. Collaborative efforts among principals and C&I members have resulted in a five-year expansion plan that aims to bring these opportunities to more schools in OCSD.

Currently in Phase 2, the plan will progress to Phase 3, extending initiatives to high schools, introducing AP academies, and incorporating GT classes and/or Magnet academies in all schools. The program also offers a rigorous standards-based curriculum, complemented by STEAM Camps, Family Nights, Virtual Field Trips, Expos, and Showcases to enrich student experiences.

SCAN QR CODE TO PREVIEW
OUR MAGNET ACADEMIES



CTE EDUCATION





LMTC scholars had the unique opportunity to meet linemen from Dominion Energy, gaining insights into the vital field of utility services. Meanwhile, a visit to the BMW Zentrum Museum in Greer, SC, broadened their horizons by exploring the cutting-edge advancements in automotive technology. LMTC also celebrated the grand opening of the Gator Salon, where cosmetology students can refine their skills while providing services to the public. In the financial realm, LMTC showcased its prowess in the Stockmarket Games Competition, with two teams securing spots in the top 100 out of 469 teams statewide. These achievements underscore LMTC's commitment to a holistic and enriching educational experience.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE



OCTC students made strides in the SC FCCLA Conference, showcasing their talents and achievements. The center also delved into the legal realm with a law and public safety mock trial. Looking ahead, an exciting development awaits as OCTC plans to unveil an Esports Lab in January, catering to the growing interest in competitive gaming.

Notably, all three technology centers welcomed Boeing officials, a testament to the centers' significance in the education landscape. These visits not only validate the quality of education provided but also offer students a glimpse into potential career paths, reinforcing the connection between education and industry

Meanwhile, at Cope and the Orangeburg Career and Technology Center (OCTC), students demonstrated their prowess in various competitions. The SC SkillsUSA competition saw active participation, leading to further success as the Technology Center proceeded to the National SkillsUSA competition. Cope's engagement extended to the HOSA State Leadership Conference, further highlighting the commitment to healthcare education. Additionally, Cope initiated its first CERT (community emergency response team) certification course offered to students, staff, and parents.









RIVELON ELEMENTARY TRANSITION TO EDISTO PRIMARY

In a strategic move following the approval of a referendum by Orangeburg County voters, an action plan was meticulously crafted and executed from August 2022 to May 2023 to combine Rivelon Elementary and Edisto Primary schools. The endeavor aimed at optimizing resources and enhancing educational experiences for the students involved.

To ensure a smooth transition, the Rivelon Elementary / Edisto Primary Transition team was formed, dedicated to achieving a comprehensive plan. Objectives included developing and sharing the plan with Senior Staff for approval before the January 2023 implementation, orchestrating the seamless transfer of furniture and equipment, preparing the Edisto Primary School facility comprehensively, fostering unity among staff through engaging activities, ensuring placement of all staff, and maintaining open communication with principals for valuable insights.

With funding allocated for engaging activities, including those involving parents and families, the transition was completed efficiently at the beginning of the school year. The success of this initiative underscores OCSD's commitment to strategic planning and effective execution for the benefit of its educational community.



At the forefront of early childhood education, the Orangeburg County Early Childhood Advisory Board champions a collective and unified approach to programs and services. Comprising representatives from Claflin University, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, DSS, OCAB, First Steps, Head Start, Save The Children, local child development centers, and Orangeburg County School District, this collaborative effort ensures consistency in curricula, measured outcomes, and strategic direction. Together, these dedicated team members work to fortify the foundation of early childhood-aged (birth-5) children and their families throughout Orangeburg County, maximizing the collective impact of resources for a brighter future.

ORANGEBURG COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY BOARD

SPELLING BEE

The Inaugural OCSD Spelling Bee will be held Wednesday, March 6 at 6:00 PM in the auditorium at O-C Tech. The OCSD Spelling Bee will mirror the Scripp's Spelling Bee. Each elementary and middle school spelling bee champion will represent their school at the OCSD Spelling Bee.

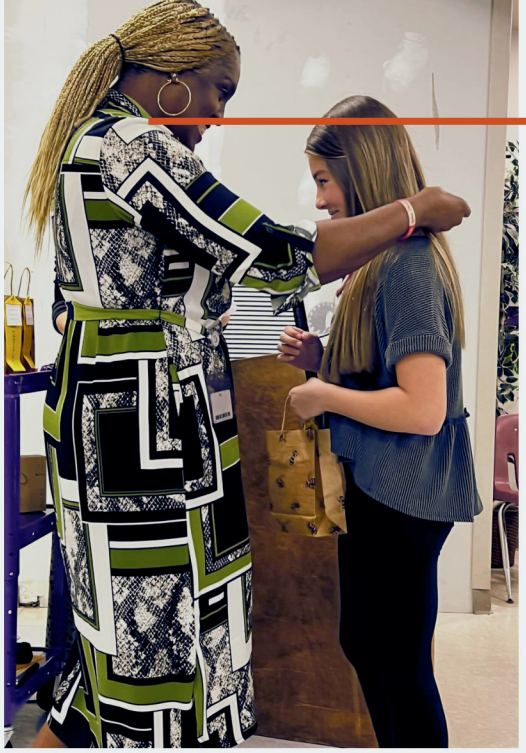
In preparation for the event, schools held classroom spelling bees. The top three students went on to compete in the school's spelling bee. The winners of the school-based contest will have the chance to participate in the district-wide spelling bee in March.












Feast on Books




CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE
CERTIFICATE
EAGLES




9
1



SCREADY TESTING



In the English Language Arts (ELA) domain, OCSD showcased positive gains, with each area experiencing at least a 5% increase. In grade 3, an impressive 71% of schools demonstrated gains, with three schools achieving gains exceeding 25%. Moving to grade 4, 71% of schools continued to exhibit gains, and OCSD led with the highest ELA increase at 10.1%, featuring three schools boasting nearly 20% gains. Grade 5 saw gains in 79% of schools, and notably, seven OCSD elementary schools maintained or improved performance across all ELA-tested areas.

In the realm of mathematics, OCSD experienced notable gains in third-grade and fourth-grade performance on the SC READY - Mathematics assessment, with increases exceeding 10%. Grade 3 witnessed gains in 64% of schools, with three OCSD schools surpassing state averages. In grade 4, two schools demonstrated remarkable increases of more than 36%, with one exceeding the state average. Grade 5 showed gains in 71% of schools, with three schools achieving a 15% increase and one even surpassing state performance.

The success story continues into the middle school level, where OCSD middle schools demonstrated gains or maintained performance in all ELA tested areas. In grade 6, an impressive 89% of schools experienced gains, with two schools achieving increases greater than 20%. Grade 7 saw gains in 67% of schools, with two OCSD schools showing increases exceeding 20%. Grade 8 exhibited gains in 89% of schools, and two schools achieved more than an 18% increase, with one surpassing the state average in 6th and 8th-grade ELA.

While making modest gains in Middle School Math, OCSD displayed progress with increases in 56% of grade 6 schools, 78% of grade 7 schools, and 44% of grade 8 schools.

Turning attention to science, OCSD schools demonstrated notable achievements. In grade 4, half of OCSD schools saw increases in performance, with one school exceeding the state average. In grade 6, 67% of schools experienced increases, and one OCSD school exceeded the state average.

ACADEMIC RATINGS

Elementary School Ratings

School Name	School Type	2022 Overall Rating	2023 Overall Rating	Difference
Bethune-Bowman Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Increase
Brookdale Elementary School	E	Below Average	Good	Increase
Dover Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Increase
Edisto Elementary	E	Average	Good	Increase
Elloree Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Increase
Holly Hill Elementary	E	Good	Average	Decrease
Hunter Kinard Tyler Elementary School	E	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Increase
Lockett Elementary School	E	Good	Excellent	Increase
Marshall Elementary School	E	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Increase
Mellichamp Elementary School	E	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Decrease
Sheridan Elementary	E	Below Average	Average	Increase
St. James-Gaillard Elementary School	E	Average	Average	Same
Vance-Providence Elementary School	E	Good	Below Average	Decrease
Whittaker Elementary	E	Average	Excellent	Increase

While one of our schools did receive an unsatisfactory rating, it should be noted that the majority of our elementary schools saw increases in their ratings. Brookdale and Edisto Elementary improved to a Good rating. While, Lockett and Whittaker Elementary improved to Excellent ratings.

Middle School Ratings

Four of our middle schools received the same rating. Bethune-Bowman, Elloree Elementary, HKT High, and North Middle High had increases in their ratings.

School Name	School Type	2022 Overall Rating	2023 Overall Rating	Difference
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High	M	Below Average	Average	Increase
Branchville High School	M	Excellent	Good	Decrease
Carver-Edisto Middle School	M	Average	Average	Same
Elloree Elementary	M	Average	Good	Increase
Holly Hill-Roberts Middle	M	Average	Average	Same
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School	M	Unsatisfactory	Average	Increase
North Middle/High School	M	Below Average	Average	Increase
Robert E. Howard Middle School	M	Average	Average	Same
William J. Clark Middle School	M	Average	Average	Same

High School Ratings

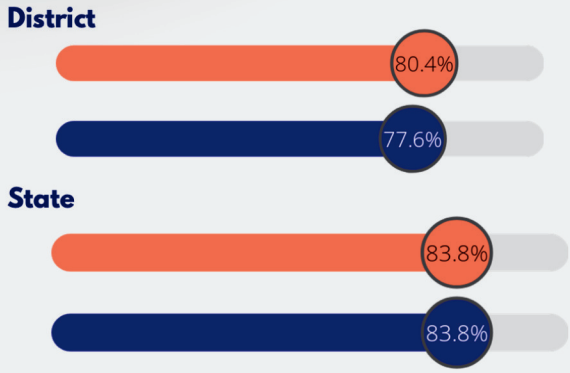
School Name	School Type	2022 Overall Rating	2023 Overall Rating	Difference
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High	H	Average	Average	Same
Branchville High School	H	Excellent	Good	Decrease
Edisto High School	H	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Same
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School	H	Average	Average	Same
Lake Marion High School	H	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Decrease
North Middle/High School	H	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Increase
Orangeburg Wilkinson High School	H	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Decrease

North Middle High had an increase in their rating. Three high schools remained the same and three had decreases in their ratings.

In summary, the district decreased the number of unsatisfactory ratings from last year's 8 to four this year. Last year 7 schools were below average and only 4 this year. We increased the amount of average from 10 to 15 average ratings as well. The District now has 5 schools with a good rating compared to last year's 3 schools. Additionally, 2 schools received excellent ratings. Overall, 23% (7 schools) had decreases in their ratings, 27% (8 schools) maintained their ratings, and 50% (15 schools) had increases in their ratings

GRADUATION RATE & SCHOOL CLIMATE

Graduation Rate



The district's graduation rate decreased by 2.8% to 77.6%. The state's graduation rate has remained unchanged at 83.8%



Student Progess

% of Progess Points Earned

The district earned a higher percentage of progress points than the state in each area measured. The district saw gains of 2.1% overall. 1.9% for the All Students category. For the lowest performing category- we grew by 2.2%. The state only grew by .1% in each area.

School Climate

These points are based on a 10 pt. scale

Measure	District 2022	District 2023	State 2022	State 2023
Overall Perceptions of School Climate	6.06	6.19	6.33	6.68
Teacher Perceptions of Instructional Focus	7.10	7.43	7.53	7.68
Teacher Perceptions of Working Conditions	7.36	7.43	6.94	7.18
Teacher Perceptions of Safety	7.22	7.45	8.03	8.05
Student Perceptions of Social-Physical Environment	3.38	3.04	4.05	4.03
Student Perceptions of Safety	5.25	5.60	5.10	6.46

These items are based on a ten-point scale with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest. The district and state saw increases in most areas. For overall perceptions of school climate, the district increased from 6.06 compared to 6.19. For teacher perceptions of instructional focus, the district increased from 7.1 compared to the state's 7.43. In teacher perceptions of safety, the district increased from 7.22 to 7.45.

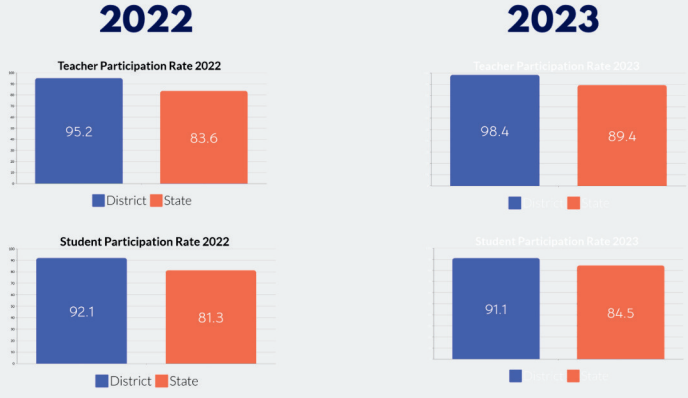
The district and state saw decreases in student perceptions of social-physical environment. Finally, both the district and the state saw increases in student perceptions of safety.

It should be noted that for 2023, 98.4% of teachers completed the survey compared to 89.4% for the state.

Also, 91.1% of students in grades 3-12 completed the survey compared to 84.5% for the state.

This is important because if a school had less than 80% of teachers or students, their rating would have been reduced in this area.

School Climate

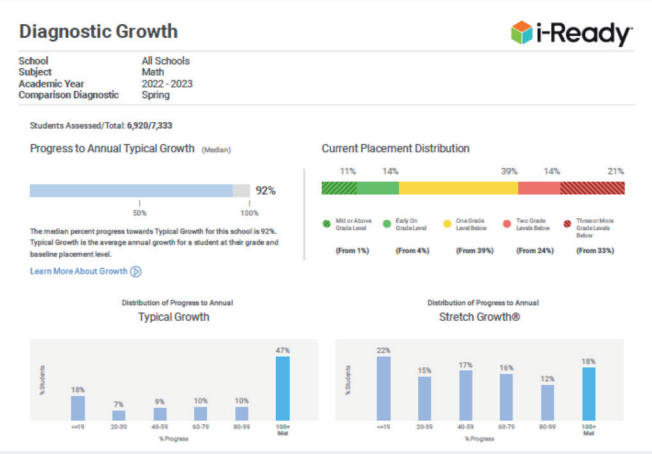


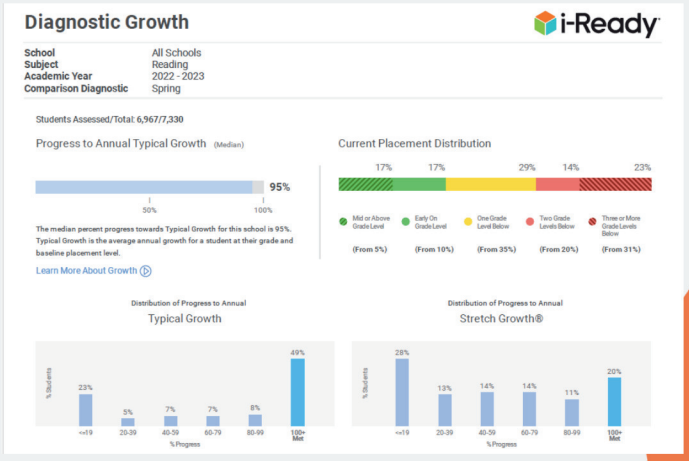
School	2021 Demonstrating Readiness #	2021 Demonstrating Readiness %	2022 Demonstrating Readiness #	2022 Demonstrating Readiness %	2023 Demonstrating Readiness #	2023 Demonstrating Readiness %
Bethune-Bowman Elementary	4	13.79%	5	14.29%	3	9.09%
Brookdale Elementary	2	7.14%	4	13.33%	12	37.50%
Dover Elementary	8	19.51%	10	28.57%	19	46.34%
Edisto Primary	11	8.94%	33	24.81%	40	29.63%
Elloree Elementary	11	31.43%	13	37.14%	17	51.52%
Holly Hill Elementary	15	30.61%	11	26.19%	18	39.13%
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary	7	20.00%	3	10.71%	12	35.29%
Lockett Elementary	10	28.57%	10	47.62%	21	70.00%
Marshall Elementary	17	16.67%	15	18.75%	27	31.40%
Rivelon Elementary	10	25.00%	13	24.07%	19	42.22%
Sheridan Elementary	16	25.00%	16	26.67%	31	43.06%
St. James-Gaillard Elementary	2	6.90%	9	31.03%	12	35.29%
Vance-Providence Elementary	6	21.43%	6	21.43%	3	12.50%
Whittaker Elementary	13	20.97%	17	34.69%	35	52.24%
Grand Total	**132**	**18.86%**	**165**	**25.04%**	**269**	**37.78%**

KRA DATA & IREADY REPORTS

We observed continual growth overall in our (KRA) Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, indicating increased preparedness among early learners for kindergarten. The percentage rose from 18.86% in 2021 to 37.78% in 2023.

To that end, OCSD introduced a new universal screener this year – iReady. Chosen by teachers and administrators because of its instructional focus, iReady allows teachers to diagnose student needs and provide strategies and tools to assist students. One example is the scaffolding report that will enable teachers to bridge the gap between a student's actual performance and grade-level performance. Also, in mathematics, a prerequisite report tells a teacher which prerequisite skills a student has not mastered for the standard and provides resources for the teacher to assist the student. Additionally, the program generates a learning path for each student and assigns them computer lessons to address their needs.





HOPE INTIATIVE



Orangeburg County School District and Orangeburg County Technical College have officially launched "The Hope Initiative." This transformative partnership aims to provide every OCSD senior with the opportunity to attend college.

The impact of "The Hope Initiative" is resounding, making OCSD a trailblazer in the state. This collaboration ensures that 100% of the graduating class will receive provisional acceptance to a college, marking a significant milestone in fostering higher education accessibility and opportunities for every OCSD senior. This initiative stands as a beacon of hope, opening doors to a brighter future for the students of Orangeburg County.







In February, OCSD hosted the Waterford organization and school organizations from across the U.S for the Waterford SC Regional Briefing. Our students are making strides in reading, math, and science with Waterford as a tool.

Our guests heard first-hand accounts on how much students loved the Waterford and Letterland curriculum from a student panel.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WATERFORD

WATERFORD EARLY LEARNING SUMMIT

WATERFORD GAINS

Orangeburg County School District has joined forces with the Waterford initiative to tackle literacy rates head-on. Every day, students from Pre-K to 2nd grade spend 15-20 minutes on Waterford, engaging in assignments that emphasize math, science, and reading. The flexibility extends beyond the classroom, allowing students to utilize the software at home. The results are impressive, with Orangeburg County students outperforming their national counterparts. Notably, they are excelling with a 28% score in phonic skills, surpassing the national average of 21%. The district's commitment to literacy is making a tangible impact on student success.

Waterford.org

SCAN QR CODE FOR THE OCSD WATERFORD IMPACT REPORT



LETTERLAND CONTINUATION

Letterland

In its ongoing commitment to fostering lifelong learners and productive citizens, Orangeburg County School District is now in its third year of implementing Letterland, a multisensory literacy curriculum. Teachers have actively participated in professional learning opportunities to enhance their expertise in supporting phonics and phonemic awareness.

The synergy between the Letterland curriculum and the Waterford literacy program is proving successful, with data indicating that Orangeburg County students, specifically in kindergarten, are performing at or above the national level in phonological awareness and phonics. The district's strategic approach to foundational literacy skills is empowering students for a future of continuous learning and academic achievement.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The OCSD Curriculum and Instruction team actively supports the district's strategic plan by organizing mandatory Professional Development days as outlined in the district's calendar. The team consistently refines the topics and adjusts the number of sessions to ensure the engagement of all faculty and staff.

SAVE THE CHILDREN & 21ST CENTURY

OCSD partners with Save the Children to ensure that children in our rural communities are socially, emotionally, and cognitively ready to enter Kindergarten and achieve proficiency in math and reading by the end of third grade. With commitments to eight (8) schools*, we provide a continuum of services in two (2) in-school programs nurturing students reading more than 150 books by the end of the school year, six (6) Early Childhood Coordinators supporting up to 20 families per month with in-home visits with children younger than five years old, eight (8) after-school programs offering 200 students with small-group reading strategies and exposure to healthy choice activities. In addition, our outstanding work allowed us to host a national and state V.I.P visit of StC's current and potential donors to see where and how their funds are invested and the potential investment return.

SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE











21st Century programs operate in six (6) schools in OCSD, serving 275 students for an additional 2.5 hours five days a week. More than 25 educators provide ELA, Math, and hands-on STEM explorations to boost student academic growth and creativity. As a result, 95% of participants maintained a grade report limited to no more than one C during the academic year. To help celebrate their success, students participating in robotic competitions created vertical block-based coding and a field trip to Discovery Place in Charlotte, N.C.

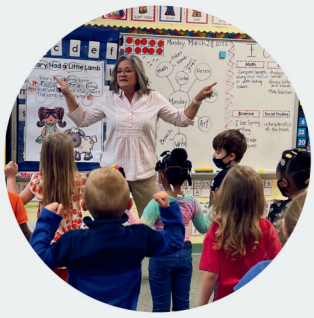
FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS



2 YEARS OF CLEAN AUDITS

0% NO TAX INCREASE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS





3 CONSECUTIVE YEARLY EMPLOYEE RETENTION BONUSES

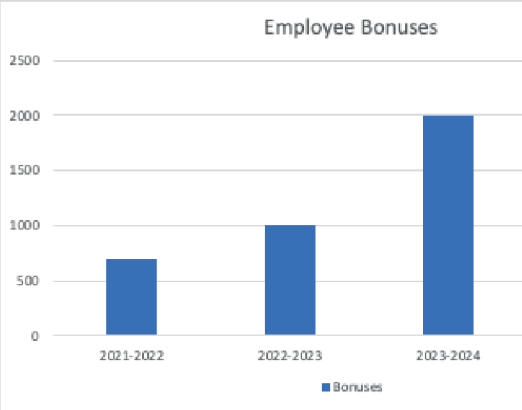
143M BUDGET FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR





100% ALL EMPLOYEES RECEIVED A SALARY STEP INCREASE

FINANCE HIGHLIGHTS



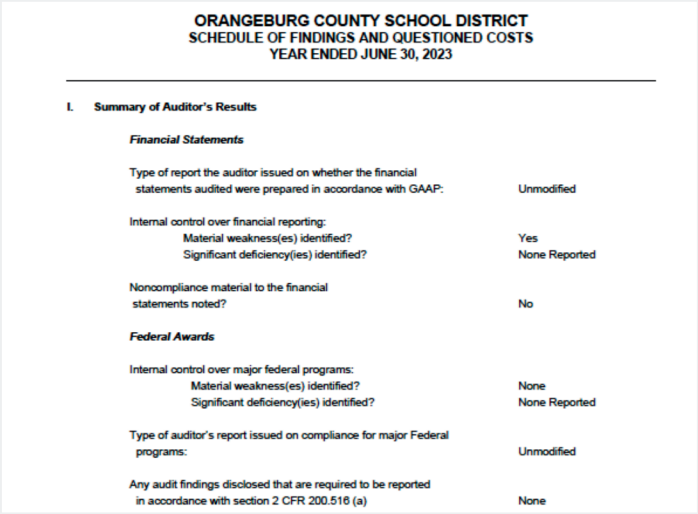
EMPLOYEE BONUS

For the third consecutive year, Orangeburg County School District will offer retention bonuses to all employees.

These bonuses serve as a motivational incentive, encouraging staff to stay with the district and effectively reducing high turnover rates.

FY 23 AUDIT

Orangeburg County School District received the third Unmodified Audit for FY 2022-2023. Mauldin and Jenkins CPAs & Advisors issued a clean opinion of the district's finances.



ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2023

I. Summary of Auditor's Results

Financial Statements

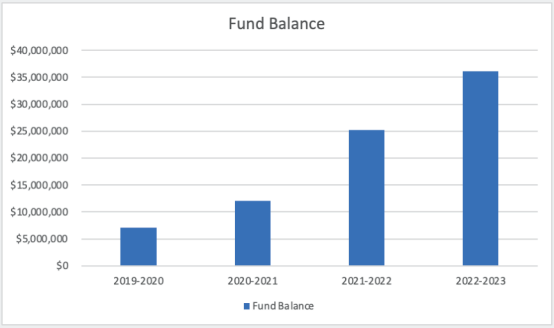
Type of report the auditor issued on whether the financial statements audited were prepared in accordance with GAAP:	Unmodified
Internal control over financial reporting:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	Yes
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?	No

Federal Awards

Internal control over major federal programs:	
Material weakness(es) identified?	None
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None Reported
Type of auditor's report issued on compliance for major Federal programs:	Unmodified
Any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with section 2 CFR 200.516 (a)	None

FUND BALANCE INCREASE

Orangeburg County School District Fund Balance has increase for the 3rd consecutive year. The District's Fund Balance has increase from 7.1 Million to 36.1 Million. A healthy fund balance serves as a financial cushion that enables the school district to weather unexpected challenges or unforeseen expenses. This stability is crucial for sustaining operations and ensuring continuity in programs and services provided by the district.



A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF A NOT EXCEEDING $6,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND, SERIES 2023, OR SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SERIES DESIGNATION, OF THE ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA; AUTHORIZING THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FACILITATE THE SALE OF THE BOND UNDER ITS GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT PROGRAM; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE BOND MAY BE ISSUED; AUTHORIZING THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE BOND; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BOND AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROCEEDS THEREOF; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

A RESOLUTION

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A NOT EXCEEDING $10,000,000 TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE, SERIES 2023, TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT, OF ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA; AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SAID NOTE TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF ITS TAN PROGRAM; PRESCRIBING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE NOTE MAY BE ISSUED; PROVIDING FOR THE FORM OF NOTE; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT THEREOF; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICIALS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DETERMINE CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO THE NOTE; AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING THERETO.

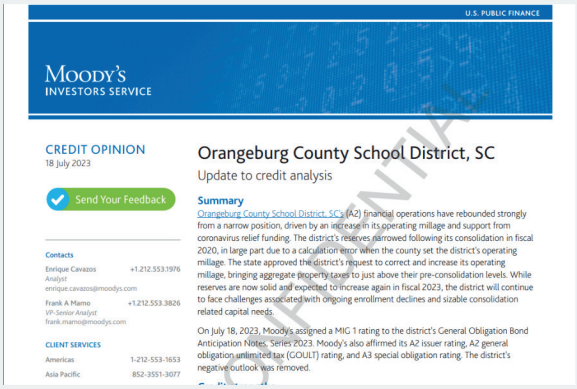
GENERAL OBLIGATION

The School board adopted resolutions for a General Obligation Bond (GOB) and a Tax Anticipation Note (TAN). The General Obligation Bond was authorized in the amount of not to exceed $ 6,000,000.

The General Obligation Bond will be used to fund technology, maintenance and capital needs of the district. The Tax Anticipation Note was authorized in the amount of not to exceed $ 10,000,000. The Tax Anticipation Note will help with cash flow until the district receives local tax revenue. The Tax Anticipation Note is considered short-term debt and will be paid back by March 31, 2024.

FY 23 BOND RATING

Orangeburg County School District received an A2 Credit Rating for General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2023, and an A3 Special Obligation Rating. A2 and A3 are considered upper-medium grade ratings.



U.S. PUBLIC FINANCE

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

CREDIT OPINION
18 July 2023

Send Your Feedback

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Orangeburg County School District, SC
Update to credit analysis

Summary

Orangeburg County School District, SC's (A2) financial operations have rebounded strongly from a narrow position, driven by an increase in its operating millage and support from coronavirus relief funding. The district's reserves narrowed following its consolidation in fiscal 2020, in large part due to a calculation error when the county set the district's operating millage. The state approved the district's request to correct and increase its operating millage, bringing aggregate property taxes to just above their pre-consolidation levels. While reserves are now solid and expected to increase again in fiscal 2023, the district will continue to face challenges associated with ongoing enrollment declines and sizable consolidation related capital needs.

On July 18, 2023, Moody's assigned a MIG 1 rating to the district's General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2023. Moody's also affirmed its A2 issuer rating, A2 general obligation unlimited tax (GOULT) rating, and A3 special obligation rating. The district's negative outlook was removed.

PRELIMINARY

Orangeburg County School District, South Carolina; School State Program

Credit Profile		
US$90.0 mil GO BANs ser 2023 due 08/17/2024		
Short Term Rating	SP-1+	New

Credit Highlights

- S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'SP-1+' short-term rating to Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), S.C.'s $90 million bond anticipation notes (BANs).

CREDIT RATING

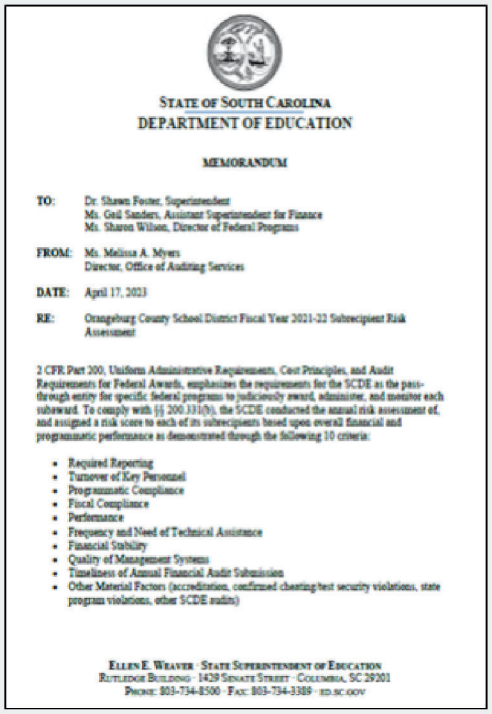
Orangeburg County received a credit rating of SP-1+ from Standard & Poor's Global Rating. which represents that the district has a strong capacity to pay debt and meet financial obligations.

FY24 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

OCSD Board approved the FY24 General Fund Budget in the amount of $143,383,007 at the June board meeting without raising taxes for the 2nd year in a row.

FY24 Proposed Budget Summary

	2023-2024	2022-2023
Revenue	$ 143,383,007.00	$ 130,790,932.16
Expenditures	$ 143,383,007.00	$ 130,790,932.16



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent
Ms. Gail Sanders, Assistant Superintendent for Finance
Ms. Sharon Wilson, Director of Federal Programs

FROM: Ms. Melissa A. Myers
Director, Office of Auditing Services

DATE: April 17, 2023

RE: Orangeburg County School District Fiscal Year 2021-22 Subrecipient Risk Assessment

2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, emphasizes the requirements for the SCDE as the pass-through entity for specific federal programs to judiciously award, administer, and monitor each subaward. To comply with §§ 200.331(b), the SCDE conducted the annual risk assessment of, and assigned a risk score to each of its subrecipients based upon overall financial and programmatic performance as demonstrated through the following 10 criteria:

- Required Reporting
- Turnover of Key Personnel
- Programmatic Compliance
- Fiscal Compliance
- Performance
- Frequency and Need of Technical Assistance
- Financial Stability
- Quality of Management Systems
- Timeliness of Annual Financial Audit Submission
- Other Material Factors (accreditation, confirmed cheating/test security violations, state program violations, other SCDE audits)

ELLEN E. WEAVER · STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
RUTLEDGE BUILDING · 1429 SENATE STREET · COLUMBIA, SC 29201
PHONE: 803-734-8500 · FAX: 803-734-3389 · ED.SC.GOV

RISK ASSESSMENT

On April 17, 2023, Orangeburg County School District received the FY 21-22 Subrecipient Risk Assessment Score of 10 which is considered low risk. The score is based on financial and programmatic performance in required reporting, turnover of key personnel, programmatic compliance, fiscal compliance, performance, frequency and need of technical assistance, financial stability, quality of management systems, timeliness of Annual Financial Audit submission, and other material factors (accreditation, confirmed cheating/test security violations, state program violations), and SCDE audits.

VENDOR DROP-IN

Vendor Drop In was held on March 22, 2023, 9:00am-12:00pm. There were 17 individuals that attended in person and six attended virtually for the Solicitation Presentation on doing business with the district. The job fair session started at 10:00am. The attendees visited the vendor booth of Construction Managers, Contract Construction, MB Kahn and Thompson Turner for all bond referendum district projects.



SALARY INCREASES

OCSD is implementing salary increases district-wide. This includes step increases for all eligible employees, a $3/hour boost for instructional aides, a $2/hour increase for food service workers, and a $1/hour raise for bus monitors and school secretaries.

HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS



SIGNING BONUSES

Total of 69 Bonuses

$207k

$43.3k

STARTING TEACHER SALARY





TEACHERS WHO ARE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED OR PURSUING CERTIFICATION

100

696

EMPLOYEES WITH MASTERS OR DOCTORATE DEGREES





SUPPORT STAFF WHO CURRENTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE G.R.O.W. PROGRAM

Three sucessfully completed

69

HUMAN RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION DAY

In a vibrant showcase of appreciation, Downtown Orangeburg transformed into a lively celebration zone for Employee Appreciation Day. The beats were set by DJ Cleve on the "1s and 2s," creating a lively atmosphere, while the Black Ice Band added the magic of live music to the festivities.

The real treat of the day came in the form of a diverse culinary experience, courtesy of over 20 food trucks. Each employee received $15 tokens to indulge in the many offerings.

With food, music, and dancing, Employee Appreciation Day was an overall success, capturing the spirit of recognition and festivity for the hardworking individuals who contribute to the vibrancy of the community.







OCSD has raised the stakes in recruitment with an offer of a $3,000 signing bonuses. This initiative made possible through a strategic partnership with the LIFE2 Federal Grant via Voorhees University, targets designated new employees set to serve in identified critical need areas for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

The critical need areas encompass a spectrum of disciplines, including biology, chemistry, physics, early childhood education, elementary education, English, world languages, math, science, special education, social studies/history, and technology/computer science.

This approach not only bolsters OCSD's recruitment efforts but also ensures that the district is well-equipped with talented professionals in key educational domains.

LIFE 2 GRANT CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP

FREE MASTERS PROGRAM WITH VOORHEES

Voorhees University collaborates with OCSD, offering 30 teachers no-cost pathways for additional certifications. The options include a master's degree or certification-only paths, focusing on middle-level math and science, secondary biology, chemistry, math, physics, and special education.

VOORHEES UNIVERSITY

LIFE2 LEVERAGING INNOVATION for EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE



23-24 TEACHER AND SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR





OCSD unveiled the 2023-2024 District Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year during the District Convocation. Loretta Gadson-Washington, OCSD Director of Classified Personnel, proudly announced Audrey Irick as Teacher of the Year and Katina Guinyard as Support Staff of the Year. Runners-up Mary Stephens and Stephanie Felder-Hilliard were also recognized. The top five finalists were commended for their exceptional service to the school community.

Marcus Johnson of Nissan of Orangeburg generously sponsored cash prizes, with $5,000 awarded to each winner, $2,500 to runners-up, and $500 to the top five finalists. Neal Martin of Rhodes Graduation Services added to the honor with a donation of commemorative rings for each awardee, symbolizing their dedication to education.



Briana Berry, a teacher at Edisto Elementary School (EES), stood in the spotlight as the recipient of the 2023-2024 Rookie Teacher of the Year. The prestigious announcement took place during the New Educator in Orangeburg (NEO) End of the Year celebration on May 24, 2023. Dyisha Taylor, OCSD's Director of Certified Personnel, expressed pride in Ms. Berry's achievements, stating, "She embodies the spirit of what we aim to cultivate: dedication, passion, and exceptional teaching practices."

Briana Berry's journey reflects the success of OCSD's GROW (Getting Ready for Opportunities to Work in Orangeburg County) program. Having transitioned from a Teacher Assistant, where she earned recognition as the 2021-2022 OCSD Support Staff of the Year, Berry's evolution underscores the impact of OCSD's commitment to fostering growth and excellence in its educators. The celebration also acknowledged Kimani Dobson from Mellichamp Elementary School, recognizing her as the runner-up for Rookie Teacher of the Year.

22-23 ROOKIE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

EMPLOYEE SUPPORTS

OCSD persists in its commitment to addressing teacher shortages through the Grow (Getting Ready for Opportunities to Work in Orangeburg County) program, leveraging support staff to create more certified educators. The initiative provides study sessions, Praxis support, and waives certification exam fees. Three individuals have successfully completed the program, transitioning into certified teachers.

Additionally, OCSD maintains its New Educators in Orangeburg (N.E.O.) Academy, fostering a supportive environment for international and first-year teachers with mentorship and instructional resources.



OPERATIONS

BY THE NUMBERS



100%

COMPLETED ABM ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

3

BRAND NEW ROOFS

Cope Area Career Center
Elloree Elementary
Orangeburg Career & Technology Center





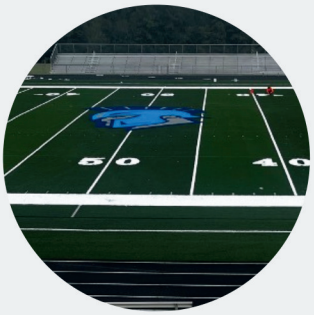
803

REPLACED HVAC UNITS WITH ABM CONTRACT, ESSER AND CAPITAL FUNDS

20

ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES WILL BE IN ROTATION NEXT SCHOOL YEAR





5

NEW TURF FIELDS

OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTS

Orangeburg County School District is proud to report substantial advancements in the projects funded by the $190 million bond referendum approved last November. Major milestones have been achieved, including the placement of foundations and poured footings for additions at William J. Clark Middle and the Lake Marion Campus. The foundation for East Lake Elementary School is currently in progress. The design and material acquisition for the Orangeburg-Wilkinson High project are in the finalization stage.

Groundbreaking ceremonies marked the commencement of turf field projects at Edisto High, HKT Middle/High, Bethune-Bowman Middle/High, Branchville High, and Lake Marion High. Edisto and HKT's turf fields have been successfully completed.

Ensuring a dynamic and engaging environment for elementary students, all elementary school playgrounds not impacted by the School Improvements of Pride campaign have been updated, enhancing the overall learning and recreational experience. Schools included are Marshall Elementary, Dover Elementary, Lockett Elementary, Sheridan Elementary, Bethune-Bowman Elementary, Elloree Elementary, HKT Elementary, Edisto Primary, and Edisto Elementary. OCSD remains committed to delivering on the promises of the bond referendum and creating state-of-the-art facilities for the benefit of the entire school community.



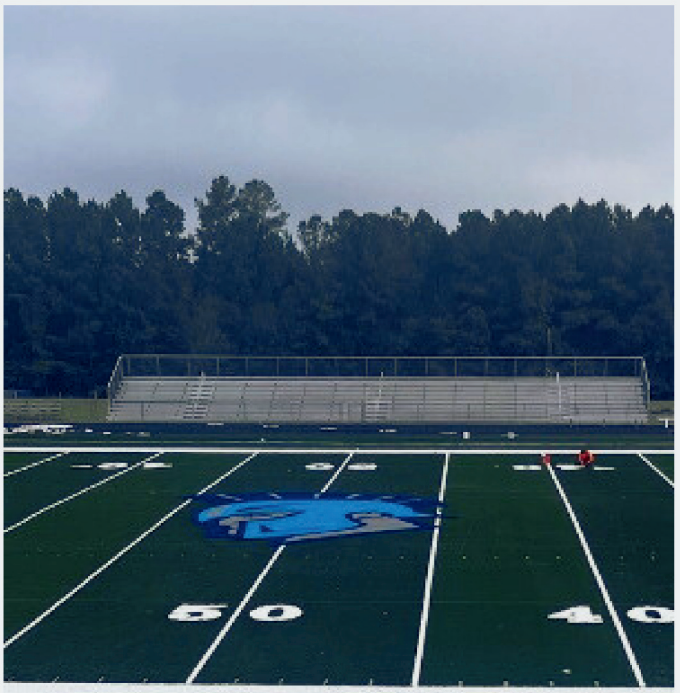


FACILITY UPGRADES








60
40






ORANGEBURG-WILKINSON
HIGH SCHOOL

FACILITY MAINTENANCE

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) is making substantial investments in improving school facilities through, ensuring optimal learning environments for students. Key infrastructure upgrades include:

- Roof Replacements: New roofing has been installed at Orangeburg Career and Technology Center, Elloree, and Cope schools, enhancing structural integrity and weather resistance.
- HVAC System Replacements: To create comfortable and conducive learning spaces, OCSD has replaced HVAC systems at various schools, including Edisto Elementary, Marshall Elementary, Carver-Edisto Middle, Sheridan, Edisto High, Bethune-Bowman campus, HKT campus, North Middle/High, Dover Elementary, Clark Middle, Howard Middle, Lake Marion campus, Edisto Primary, and Branchville/Lockett campus.
- Painting Projects: Several schools, with a notable focus on Edisto Primary, Bethune-Bowman, and Orangeburg Career and Technology Center, have undergone painting projects to refresh and revitalize their appearance.
- Facility Enhancements: North Middle/High's gym has been resurfaced, providing an improved space for physical activities. Bethune-Bowman has received new flooring, contributing to a modern and functional learning environment.

OCSD remains dedicated to maintaining and upgrading school facilities to provide a safe, comfortable, and enriching educational experience for all students and staff.





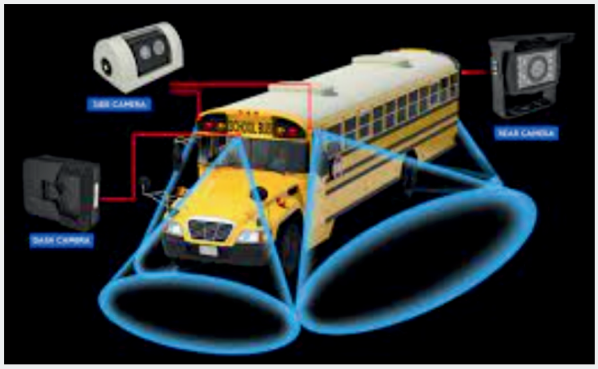




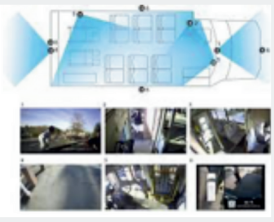
BUS CAMERA SYSTEMS UPGRADE PROJECT

Orangeburg County School District remains steadfast in its commitment to prioritizing the safety of students and staff. Currently, a series of projects are in progress to enhance safety measures across the district, with a particular focus on upgrading school bus cameras. This district-wide initiative aims to bring several benefits to our school community.

The ongoing upgrade involves both hardware and software improvements to the existing school bus camera system. These enhancements serve multiple purposes, including deterring misbehavior, creating a clear record of events during commutes, and aiding in the resolution of disputes or conflicts that may arise on buses. Furthermore, the recorded video footage can be utilized for valuable driver training exercises.







DISTRICT-OWNED BUS FLEET UPGRADE PROJECT

Opting for high-quality school and activity buses offers long-term advantages compared to their more economical counterparts. These buses not only have a prolonged lifespan, reducing expenses associated with repairs and replacements, but they also prioritize the comfort and safety of students, staff, and bystanders. Choosing quality buses reflects our district's commitment to delivering an exceptional education and sends a strong message to the community about prioritizing the well-being and education of our students.





SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN OCSD BUS DRIVER

SCAN QR CODE TO SEE SOME OF OUR SRO'S IN ACTION

The SC Department of Public Safety has bestowed a grant upon the school district, signaling a new chapter in safety measures. This grant specifically covers the entire expenses for School Resource Officers (SROs) at two elementary schools within the district, augmenting security efforts beyond those previously mentioned.

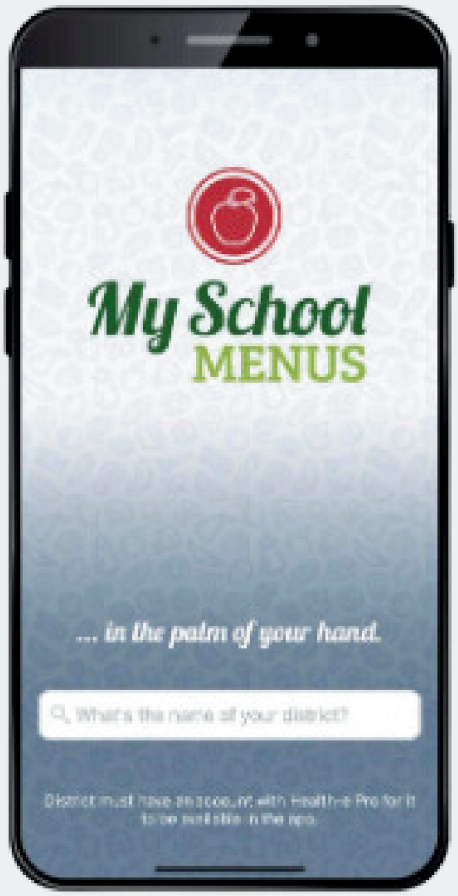
Funding for other SROs around the district stems from collaboration between the school district and either the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office or the Orangeburg Department of Public Safety.

This strategic alliance reinforces the district's commitment to ensuring a secure and nurturing environment for students, marking a positive stride towards enhanced safety measures.

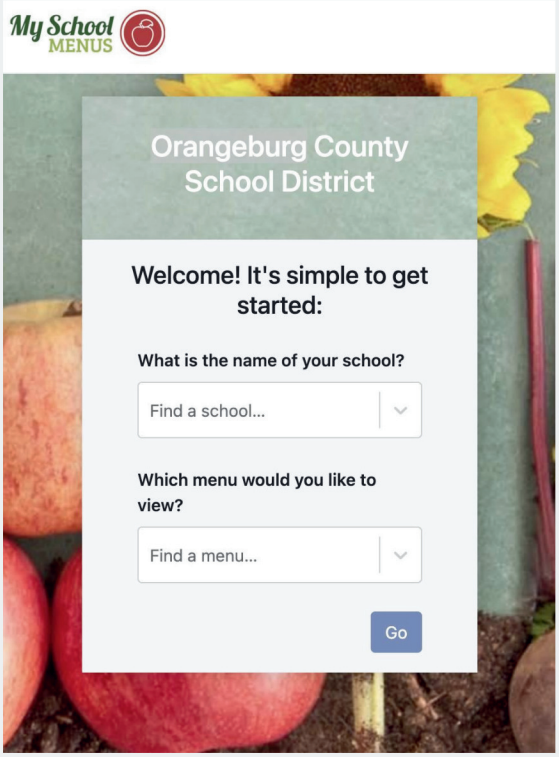
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER GRANT



FOOD SERVICES MENU APP



In a commitment to enhancing the overall school dining experience, the Orangeburg County School District's Food Service Department has embraced innovation by adopting My School MenusTM by Health-e Pro. This transformative mobile app brings an interactive dimension to school menus, offering students, parents, and staff a dynamic and user-friendly platform for accessing information about the daily offerings.



SDE BREAKFAST EXPANSION GRANT

OCSD has successfully implemented a Breakfast Expansion grant, benefiting five selected schools for the second consecutive year. The South Carolina Department of Education (SDE) strategically identified schools with lower breakfast participation, directing $10,000 annually to each of the chosen institutions. Over the two-year period, each school—Whittaker, Clark, OW, Bowman, and Lake Marion—has received a total of $20,000, allowing for sustained efforts to enhance breakfast programs and increase student participation.

STUDENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS



HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARDS WILL BE REPLACED

HKT Middle/High, Lake Marion High, and Edisto High are under construction

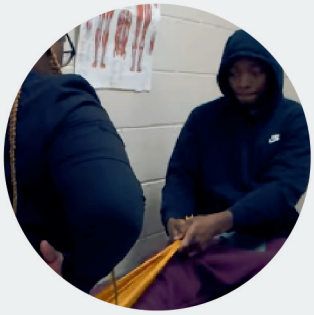
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90



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS RECEIVED NEW SHOES

In partnership with Hibbett Sports and Orangeburg Rotary



STUDENT ATHLETES HAVE ACCESS TO AN ATHLETIC TRAINER

Through our partnership with MUSC Health Sports Medicine

100%

9



CAREER CAFÉS

Alternative school students receive hands-on opportunities with Career Guidance using various platforms and community speakers



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MAPPS

Less than 0.14% reported pregnancies

2,212

STUDENT SERVICES HIGHLIGHTS

2023 MLK JR. ORATORY CONTEST





Orangeburg County School District's 2nd Annual MLK Jr. Oratory competition, held on January 30, 2023, showcased the eloquence and passion of 14 exceptional students from OCSD. These fourth and fifth-grade contest winners, representing each elementary school in the district, used their voices to inspire and motivate others through the art of public speaking. The event, celebrating cultural diversity and honoring the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., saw students delivering powerful speeches based on the competition theme, "Celebrating the Impact of our Youth."

The orators addressed the question, "As an OCSD student, what are some educational experiences you have or would like to have that will empower you to be a leader impacting your community, and how will you use those experiences to make such an impact?" Each contestant received a certificate of participation, a trophy, and a gift certificate. The first-place winner, Jaiden Seawright from Sheridan Elementary, earned a $500 prize, followed by second-place winner Neshel Mantle from Elloree Elementary School receiving $300, and third-place winner Ava Ferguson from St. James-Gaillard Elementary taking home $150.

The winners shared inspirational messages during the back-to-school convocation, and all participants hosted a segment on 'Fostering OCSD with Dr. Foster!'


SCAN QR
CODE TO
WATCH

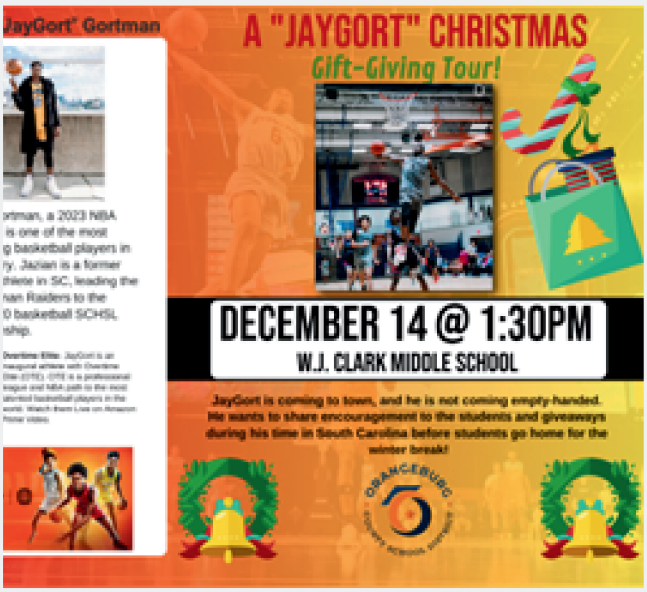
EVERFI SEAL OF EMPOWERMENT

OCSD) has earned the prestigious EVERFI Empowered Seal, solidifying its commitment to evidence-informed teaching strategies. This recognition, awarded in 2023, reinforces OCSD's position as a leader in whole-child education.

The Empowered Seal, granted after a thorough evaluation process, acknowledges OCSD's dedication to teaching vital skills such as financial literacy, social-emotional learning, health and wellness, literacy, and careers. The assessment criteria included alignment with the Principles of Effective Prevention Programs by Nation, et al. (2003), and the utilization of EVERFI's complimentary life skills resources by over ten percent of the district's student population.

Faith Arthur, OCSD's Coordinator of School Counselors, expressed gratitude for the recognition, emphasizing the district's commitment to holistically developing students. Arthur stated, "This underscores our dedication to equipping our students with essential skills for navigating the 21st-century world. Our partnership with EVERFI has enriched our curriculum, leaving a lasting impact on students and their families."





GIFT-GIVING TOUR AT CLARK

Then NBA prospect now NBA Player, Jazian Gortman, teamed up with OCSD Student Services to host the "A JayGort Christmas" Gift-Giving Tour at Clark Middle School in collaboration with Overtime Elite. During this special event, Gortman inspired student athletes, distributed exciting prizes, autographed memorabilia, and took memorable pictures, creating a festive and motivational experience for all involved.



SEGREGATION TO JUSTICE

Clemson Professor and Executive Director of Call Me MISTER, Dr. Roy Jones, joined forces with MISTER alumni and Filmmaker Zebulun Dinkins in collaboration with Student Services to organize a special event. The occasion featured the premiere of "From Segregation to Justice". This film documents the origin of the Brown Vs. Board of Education which started in Clarendon County under the Briggs vs. Elliot case which challenged school segregation in Summerton, SC.



JGA AND JEWELS CELEBRATION

Jaguar Gentlemen's Academy (JGA) and Jewels mentoring programs celebration event for Spring 2023 on April 27 at Vance-Providence Elementary School.

BLACK HISTORY LYCEUM SPEAKER

Nationally renowned speaker, storyteller and vocalist, David Anthony Johnson, known for his Black History messages and his soul stirring Dr. Martin L. King impressions, conducted workshops for Sheridan Elementary and Marshall Elementary School. This was a partnership with Claflin University's Social Sciences department.



POWER UP EVENT

On March 14, the Power Up event took place at South Carolina State University, aimed at raising awareness about career and college opportunities for high school juniors and seniors from Allendale, Bamberg, Calhoun, and Orangeburg counties.



STEM SIGNING DAY

STEM Signing Day with Seniors, Curtis Mack from BBMH and Trinity Winningham from OWHS. Curtis Mack is an honor graduate who will be attending Claflin University. Trinity is the valedictorian headed to Tuskegee University.







SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

On September 20, 2023, OCSD observed Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month. The Division of Social Services requested that students, staff, and community members wear turquoise on September 20th as a visible pledge of unity and awareness. This special observance underscores OCSD's commitment to creating a support system for the mental well-being of everyone in the school community.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is the second leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 and 34. This sobering statistic highlights the importance of comprehensive preventive measures, particularly among school-aged youth. Currently, OCSD Mental Health are serving approximately 87 students who deal with suicidal thoughts. Approximately, 17% of those students have been referred to community resources for intensive support services to include: severe emotional disturbances and suicidal ideations.



MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

OCSD Mental Health Counselors have provided early identification and interventions to 244 students experiencing emotional disturbances. Of the 244 students served, approximately 28.8% were referred to community agencies for additional support.

We have provided approximately 9 evidence-based trainings and supportive services to our faculty and staff to increase awareness and knowledge of mental health. These trainings include several sessions on the following topics: Mindfulness, Trauma Informed Care, Self-Care, and Seasonal Affective Disorder





FATHER-DAUGHTER EVENT AT LOCKETT

Dr. Liana Calloway and Hayward Jean from Student Services supported the Father-Daughter event at Lockett Elementary School on February 7, 2023. The event was created and coorindated by Professional School Counselor, Andrea Felder. The focus for this event was for fathers to understand the importance of building a good father/daughter relationship, parental skills, study skills, and a good male role model for their daughters. The event included Father/Daughter games, Father/Daughter dances, food, inspirational song by LaSonya Colter, and a speech from Mr. Jean.



MELLICHAMP MALE EMPOWERMENT

OCSD Student Services Department collaborated with Mellichamp Elementary to organize the inaugural Mellichamp Male Mentoring Conference on January 20, fostering valuable mentorship opportunities for students.





COMMUNITY OF CHARACTER

Outstanding fifth graders from various Orangeburg County schools were acknowledged for their exceptional character at the "Community of Character" event, as highlighted by Executive Director Candace Berry-Vaughn. Each school nominated a student who demonstrated excellence in character, and these honorees crafted essays expressing their views on the most crucial character trait. The participating schools encompassed Orangeburg County School District elementary schools, Felton Laboratory Charter School, and Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. Notably, a student was presented with a full scholarship during this commendable community event.

BEYOND THE BELL

LaKeisha Lawrence, Coordinator of Dropout Prevention works collaboratively with schools and parents, seeking the most effective solutions to assist students at risk of dropping out. During the 2022-2023 academic year, Beyond the Bell Academy successfully guided 13 of its 16 (81%) students to achieve high school graduation. During the summer of 2023, Beyond the Bell Academy successfully guided 11 of its 12 (91%) students to achieve high school graduation.

Beyond the Bell Academy motivates its students by offering a variety of gift cards, obtained through donations, as rewards in drawings for those who meet their weekly objective. Former graduates of Beyond the Bell Academy come back as guest speakers to share their experiences to inspire current students to stay focused and graduate. Due to the nurturing family-like atmosphere, there are no incidents of disciplinary issues at Beyond the Bell Academy.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief – Homeless Children and Youth (ARP II-HCY Grant) $176,397.71 was awarded to OCSD to identify homeless children and youth, to provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services to address the challenges of COVID-19, and to enable homeless children and youth to attend school and fully participate in school activities. Currently, we have identified approximately 62 McKinney Vento students with various needs and concerns to include: lack of clothing, shelter, food and hygiene products. Approximately 8% of our MV families have been aided with hotel accommodations and approximately 50% of our students have received assistance with transportation.

ANGEL TREE PARTNERSHIP WITH SALVATION ARMY

In October, OCSD's Parent Liasion team assisted over 200 families during the Angel Tree giveaway in partnership with the Salvation Army.





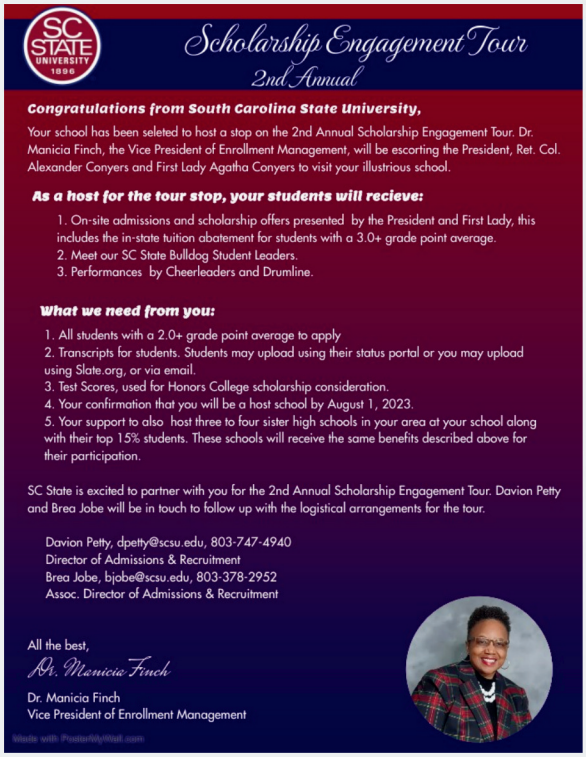
SPEAK LIFE DAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

Schools throughout Orangeburg County School District took part in the fourth annual "Speak Life Day," which is a social and emotional learning and character building day that encourages students to use words and actions to uplift others. This day has been recognized by the Mayor of Orangeburg and observed by schools and individuals throughout the country.

SCSU PRESIDENTIAL BUS TOUR

OCSD students participated in South Carolina State University's 2nd Annual Scholarship Engagement To. Ret. Col. Alexander Conyers, President of SCSU, and SCSU's First Lady Agatha Conyers visited Bethune-Bowman, Edisto, Lake Marion, North and Orangeburg-Wilkinson on Dcember 1, 2023.





SC STATE UNIVERSITY 1896

Scholarship Engagement Tour
2nd Annual

Congratulations from South Carolina State University,

Your school has been seleted to host a stop on the 2nd Annual Scholarship Engagement Tour. Dr. Manicia Finch, the Vice President of Enrollment Management, will be escorting the President, Ret. Col. Alexander Conyers and First Lady Agatha Conyers to visit your illustrious school.

As a host for the tour stop, your students will recieve:

1. On-site admissions and scholarship offers presented by the President and First Lady, this includes the in-state tuition abatement for students with a 3.0+ grade point average.
2. Meet our SC State Bulldog Student Leaders.
3. Performances by Cheerleaders and Drumline.

What we need from you:

1. All students with a 2.0+ grade point average to apply
2. Transcripts for students. Students may upload using their status portal or you may upload using Slate.org, or via email.
3. Test Scores, used for Honors College scholarship consideration.
4. Your confirmation that you will be a host school by August 1, 2023.
5. Your support to also host three to four sister high schools in your area at your school along with their top 15% students. These schools will receive the same benefits described above for their participation.

SC State is excited to partner with you for the 2nd Annual Scholarship Engagement Tour. Davion Petty and Brea Jobe will be in touch to follow up with the logistical arrangements for the tour.

Davion Petty, dpetty@scsu.edu, 803-747-4940
Director of Admissions & Recruitment
Brea Jobe, bjobe@scsu.edu, 803-378-2952
Assoc. Director of Admissions & Recruitment

All the best,
Dr. Manicia Finch
Dr. Manicia Finch
Vice President of Enrollment Management

CLAFLIN PANTHER PREVIEW

Students from all of our high schools participated in Claflin University Preview Day on Wednesday, November 15, 2023. One hundred seventy-two seniors from Orangeburg County Schools had the unique opportunity to meet with Dr. Dwaun Warmack, Claflin University President, Admissions Staff, Faculty, and Students as a part of this annual event. Representatives from Greek Organizations, Student Clubs, Claflin University Cheerleaders, and Band Members gave participants an overview of the 'Claflin Experience.' Students toured the campus, ate lunch and received information regarding the nationally accredited academic programs and support services. Additionally, students were able to submit college applications and will be notified of their acceptance and any eligible financial aid and scholarships.

31 SCHOOLS

15 Elementary
4 Middle
3 Middle/High
4 High
3 Tech
2 Alternative

PREK-12 STUDENTS 10,661

934 CERTIFIED EDUCATORS

Teachers, counselors & school administrators

SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS 903

Custodians, food services, secretaries, bookkeepers, bus drivers, district office admin & etc.

14.8M STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Awarded to the 2023 graduating OCSD class.

MUNICIPALITIES SERVED 17

Bowman • Branchville • Cope
Cordova • Elloree • Eutawville
Holly Hill • Livingston • Neeses
North • Norway • Orangeburg
Rowesville • Santee • Springfield
Vance • Woodford

1.8M MILES TRAVELED FROM 2022-2023

8,400 students transported daily
350 total routes
189 total buses

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2023-24 District Calendar

2023

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

2024

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- School Not in Session
- First / Last Day of School
- Half Day
- PD / Teacher Workday
- Holidays / Breaks - All Schools & Offices are Closed
- Parent-Teacher Conference / Teacher Work Day
- Graduation
- Early Dismissal Day
- Report Cards
- Inclement Weather Day

July

4	Independence Day - Holiday
31-Aug 4	PD / Teacher Workday

August

7	First Day of School
29	Early Dismissal Day

September

4	Labor Day - Holiday
26	Early Dismissal Day

October

9	End of the First 9 Weeks
13	Fall Break
16	Parent-Teacher Conference / Teacher Workday
17	Report Cards Issued
31	Early Dismissal Day

November

20-24	Thanksgiving Break
28	Early Dismissal Day

December

19	End of Second 9 Weeks / Half Day
20-Jan 4	Winter Break - Holiday

January

5	PD / Teacher Workday
10	Report Cards Issued
15	MLK Jr. Day - Holiday
30	Early Dismissal Day

February

19	President's Day
27	Early Dismissal Day

March

14	Parent-Teacher Conference / Teacher Workday
15	End of Third 9 Weeks - Holiday
21	Report Cards Issued
26	Early Dismissal Day
29-Apr 5	Spring Break - Holiday

April

26	PD / Teacher Workday
30	Early Dismissal Day

May

24-25	Graduations
27	Memorial Day
29	Last Day for Students / Report Cards Issued
30	PD / Teacher Workday


SCAN ME
SCAN ME
SCAN ME
SCAN ME
ORANGEBURG
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TO GET CONNECTED WITH US

WE ARE ONE