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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS MADE SIGNIFICANT GAINS ON 2023-2024 STATE ASSESSMENTS

ORANGEBURG S.C. – The South Carolina Department of Education recently released the results of the South Carolina College-and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY and End of Course Examination) from the 2023-2024 school year. All grades 3-8 students take the SC READY (ELA and math), and grade 9-12 students take the EOCEP. Students take the EOCEP assessments in Algebra 1, English 2, Biology, and U.S. History.

During the 2023-2024 school year, Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) made gains in 75% of tested areas on the SCREADY assessment. The district saw gains in ELA in grades 4, 5, 6, and 7. At least 50% of schools saw increases in grades 4, 5, 6, and 7. Also note that in sixth grade, every school had an increase in the ELA assessment.

OCSD experienced gains in math in nearly every tested grade level. Significant increases were achieved in grade 4, which experienced a 10% improvement over the previous year. Almost 80% of schools achieved gains in grades 4 and 8 on the math assessment. In grade 5, 64% of schools saw increases, while 67% saw increases in the grade 6 math assessment.

“As always, I am happy to see that we are continuing to grow and show progress year over year, and even more excited to see the across-the-board improvements in all four EOC tested areas (Algebra, Biology, English and U.S. History),” shared Dr. Shawn D. Foster, OCSD Superintendent.

“However, we do understand that we have work to do, all while understanding that growing instruction is a gradual, and not instant, but with consistent growth, we know that we will close our gaps,” he continued.

SCREADY ELA Highlights

- Dover Elementary increased by 28.3% on the grade 4 assessment.
- Elloree Elementary increased by 24% on the grade 4 assessment.
- Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary increased by 22% on the grade 4 assessment.
- Bethune-Bowman realized a 19.6% increase in the grade 5 ELA assessment.

- St. James-Gaillard Elementary increased by 17.8% on the grade 5 ELA assessment.
- Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High experienced an 18% increase in the grade 6 ELA assessment.
- Dover Elementary experienced gains in all ELA-tested areas.

SCREADY Math Highlights

- Dover Elementary experienced a significant increase of 44% on the grade 4 math assessment.
- Ellore Elementary experienced a significant increase of 36.6% on the grade math assessment.
- Whittaker Elementary experienced a significant increase of 29.3% on the grade 4 math assessment.
- St. James-Gaillard Elementary experienced a significant increase of 24% on the grade 5 math assessment.
- Branchville High, Holly Hill Roberts Middle, and North High experienced gains in each tested area of the math assessment.

EOCEP Highlights

The district experienced gains in all tested subject areas of the EOCEP. The district improved by 6% in Algebra 1 and English 2. Modest gains were realized in Biology and U.S. History.

- Branchville High experienced a 29.4% increase in the Algebra 1 assessment.
- Holly-Hill Roberts Middle and Robert E. Howard Middle saw an increase of 54% on the Algebra 1 assessment.

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High, Branchville High, and Lake Marion High realized growth in all tested areas.

- Branchville High, Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High, and North Middle/High increased by at least 20% on the English 2 assessment.
- Branchville High also saw a 22.7% increase in the biology assessment
- Orangeburg Wilkinson High, Branchville High, and Lake Marion High realized growth in all tested areas.

“With a laser-like focus, Orangeburg County School District emphasizes standards-based instruction,” said Dr. Bernard E. Frost, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. “We have hosted multiple EOC jamborees, engaged contact coordinators, held various professional development, utilized curriculum guides, and created common formative assessments to help guide and direct students' instructional needs,” he continued.

OCSD's goal is to reach and exceed the state average. To accomplish that, OCSD will maintain current efforts, increase the focus on professional learning communities (PLCs) at the secondary level, and continue to use high-quality instructional materials.

For additional information about the results, visit the state's Department of Education website.

For more information, contact the Office of Communications, Business and Community Partnerships at (803) 534-5454.

Orangeburg County School District

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. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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