

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

YEAR IN REVIEW

Dec. 2023 - Dec. 2024

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Message from the Superintendent

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new." – Socrates

As we reflect on the challenges and triumphs of the past year, it is evident that education continues to transform in ways we couldn't have imagined. Despite these changes, our commitment to delivering a high-quality education remains steadfast. Last year's theme, "Reconstructing the Future: The Hard Reset," was not just a slogan, but a call to action — a promise to go beyond the familiar, reimagine, and rebuild our educational path together. It was a stepping stone into our new era: "Building Capacity, Sustaining Success."

As we move forward through the rest of this school year, I am excited to continue our vision under this theme. "Building Capacity, Sustaining Success" embodies our shared goals and dedication to navigating the evolving landscape with resilience and adaptability. It reflects our commitment to using both our victories and our challenges as a foundation to elevate and strengthen our educational system.

In this moment of reflection, it's important to recognize the contributions of our dedicated staff, students, and community partners. Every step we take toward building capacity is a shared achievement. Each success, no matter how small, contributes to the larger picture of sustained excellence across our schools. Your hard work, creativity, and passion are what fuel our forward momentum.

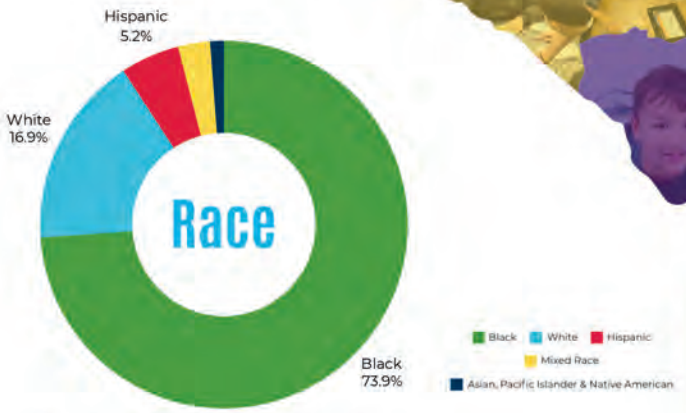
Together, let's embrace change and continue building upon the solid foundations we've laid to sustain lasting success. This is our opportunity to shape a brighter future for our students and the entire Orangeburg County educational community.

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." – Robert Collier

Shawn Foster

DR. SHAWN D. FOSTER
OCSD SUPERINTENDENT





We Are ONE.

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

1.7M
Miles Traveled 23-24
6,800 students transported
305 total routes
195 total buses
20 total electric vehicles

19.2M
Student Scholarships

Free Lunch
All Schools

9 Magnet Programs
5 Elementary
3 Middle
1 High

Title 1
All Schools

17
Bowman • Branchville • Cope
Cordova • Elloree • Eutawville
Holly Hill • Livingston • Neeses
North • Norway • Orangeburg
Rowesville • Santee • Springfield
Vance • Woodford
Municipalities Served

20
Languages Spoken

10.6k
Students Enrolled

908 Support Professionals

Certified Educators **938**



84% District Poverty Rate

Graduation Rate **79.3%**

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:

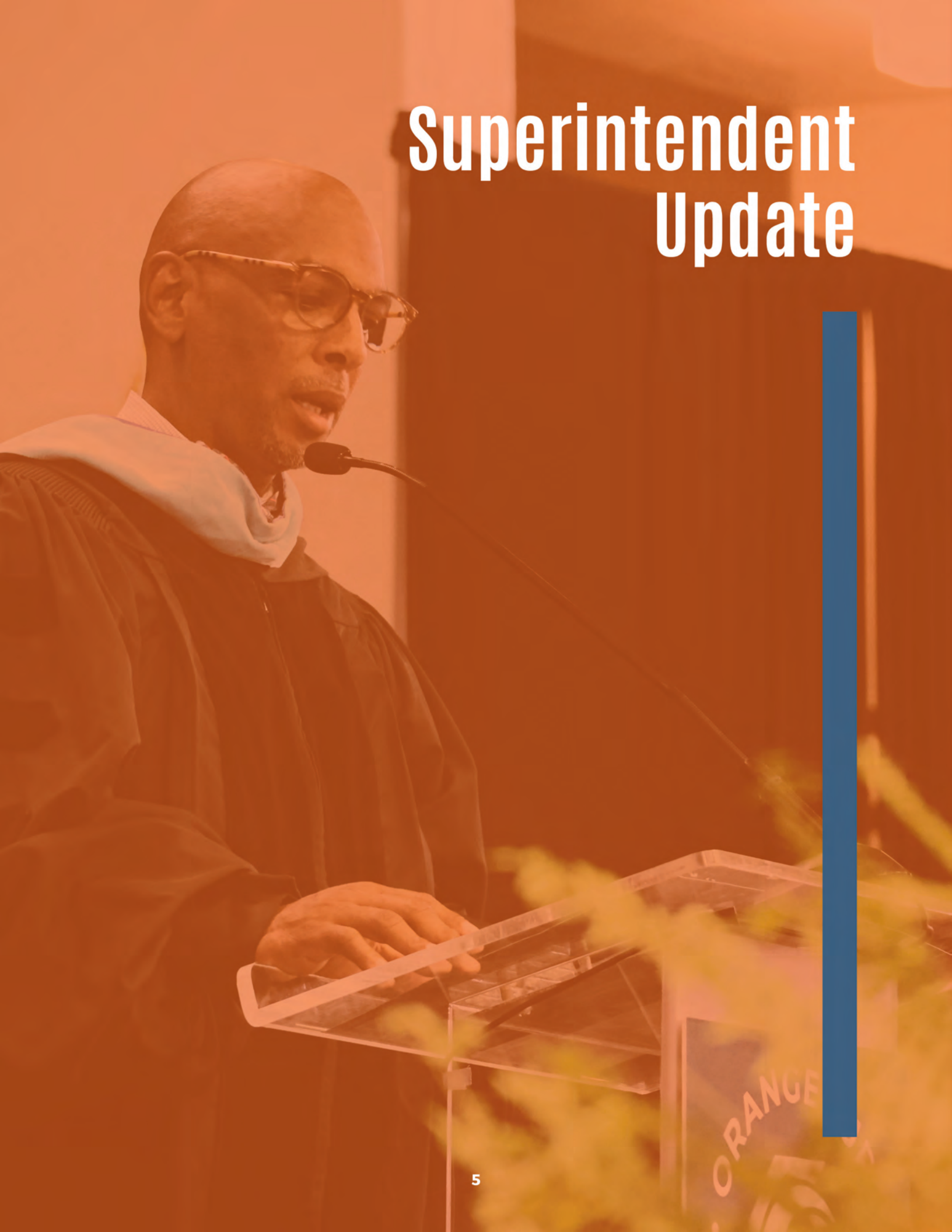
- a culture of collaboration, equity and inclusion
- a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities
- a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all.

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 Update



Convocation

This year's Convocation featured an inspiring keynote by Chris Singleton, along with moving speeches from our MLK Jr. Oratory students. We celebrated excellence by presenting the MUSC Wellness Awards and announcing our Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year, who received monetary prizes. Additionally, our Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year were each awarded a car, generously donated by Nissan of Orangeburg. The event concluded with a celebratory lunch at the Orangeburg County Fairgrounds.













Convocation























Medal of Excellence

This year, Orangeburg County School District proudly introduced the prestigious Superintendent's Medal of Excellence, honoring extraordinary "wavemakers" in education who have made a significant impact in our community. The inaugural recipients are:

- Rev. Dr. R.L. Brown
- Mrs. Vernell Goodwin
- Dr. David Longshore
- Dr. Melvin Smoak
- The late Mrs. Peggy James-Tyler (posthumously)

Their dedication and contributions exemplify the highest standards of excellence in education and continue to make a profound impact on our students, staff, and community.



Principal of the Month

In an effort to celebrate and highlight the outstanding leadership within our schools, we are taking the Principal of the Month campaign on the road! Announcements will now be made directly at each principal's school, allowing their staff, students, and community to join in the celebration.



NIET Appointment

We are proud to announce that Dr. Foster has been selected as a member of the 2024-2026 NIET Educator Advisory Board. This prestigious board plays a vital role in advancing the mission of the National Institute for Excellence in Teaching (NIET) by contributing to the success of classroom initiatives nationwide.

Representing educators from across the country, the Advisory Board brings a wealth of knowledge, innovation, and strategic insight to support NIET's mission of building educator excellence and ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.



Speaking Engagments

Throughout the year, Dr. Foster has shared his expertise and insights at several prestigious national and state conferences, including the NIET 2024 Conference, the AASA Conference, and SCASA, among others. Additionally, Dr. Foster has been a key speaker at numerous local events, making a significant impact on the Orangeburg community. Notably, he addressed audiences at the Rotary Orangeburg, Leadership Orangeburg, and the Orangeburg Sustainability Summit, contributing valuable perspectives on education, leadership, and community development.

Call Me Mister

Dr. Foster recently had the privilege of meeting with scholars from the Call Me MISTER programs at Claflin University and South Carolina State University. This program is dedicated to mentoring African American men who aspire to become educators, addressing the need for greater diversity in the teaching profession. As of 2023, only 1.3% of public school teachers are Black men, and initiatives like Call Me MISTER are working to change this statistic by inspiring and supporting young men to pursue teaching careers.











Leadership Retreat

This year, we hosted a successful Leadership Retreat for department leaders, principals, and assistant principals in Charleston. The retreat featured engaging team-building exercises and leadership training to strengthen our district's leadership. Attendees had the opportunity to explore the International African American Museum, enhancing their cultural understanding, and enjoyed exciting excursions to Top Golf and a Charleston River Dogs Baseball Game, where Dr. Foster had the honor of throwing the first pitch. This retreat provided a perfect blend of professional development and team bonding, reinforcing our commitment to continuous growth and collaboration within our leadership team.









League of Innovative Schools

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) has been accepted into the prestigious League of Innovative Schools, a national network that connects and supports forward-thinking education leaders. Organized by Digital Promise, a global nonprofit, the League promotes innovation and opportunity in education by bridging solutions across research, practice, and technology. OCSD was selected from a competitive pool of applicants due to its strong educational leadership, commitment to equity and excellence, and its innovative vision for learning.

As part of the League, OCSD will collaborate with other districts to bring cutting-edge educational opportunities to its students, ensuring they are prepared for a dynamic future. The district's participation provides access to unique professional development, including networking with peers, attending biannual convenings, and piloting new educational models. This membership supports OCSD's mission to lead in innovation and excellence, benefiting both students and educators.



Communications Update



Communications Highlights

OCSD's Communications Department has accomplished the following:

1.5k+ SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

150+ PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA ADVISORIES

1.4k+ VIDEOGRAPHY & MEDIA APPEARANCES

16 AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

Forging New Partnerships

This year, we have established exciting new partnerships, including one with the International African American Museum in Charleston, which offers free field trips for our students. We also partnered with Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union to provide teachers with $15,000 in assistance to help finance the purchase of a home. Additionally, we've strengthened our ongoing partnerships with BOEING and MUSC Wellness, further supporting our district's growth and well-being.









Employee Perks

We are excited to announce that we now offer over 80 employee perks, sourced from national, state, and local businesses, providing our staff with a wide range of benefits and discounts to enhance their work-life experience.

OCSD Perks

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
EMPLOYEE PERKS PROGRAM

Alumni Spotlight

Starting in January, we launched the Spotlight on Alumni campaign to celebrate the achievements of our exceptional former students. Each month, we carefully select an community nominated alumnus who embodies our mission and has found their Person, Purpose, and Platform. The chosen individual is recognized on our website, social media, and at our school board meeting, where they are also awarded a monetary prize sponsored by the Atkins Law Firm. This initiative not only honors the success of our alumni but also inspires current students to pursue their dreams and make a positive impact on their communities.





Teacher Appreciation Week

For Teacher Appreciation Week this year, we launched a social media campaign to encourage the community to express their gratitude to teachers. As a token of our appreciation, each school received a thank-you cake and tumblers to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our educators.







Student Advisory Roundtable

This year, we launched the Student Advisory Roundtable, a new initiative designed to ensure that our students' voices are heard. Through this roundtable, students have the opportunity to share their opinions on key topics that matter to them regarding their educational experiences.









Principal for a Day

In October, to celebrate National Principal's Month, we held our first District-Wide Principal for a Day event. This initiative gave local officials and community partners the unique opportunity to shadow our principals and experience firsthand the challenges and responsibilities that come with the role. Following the event, we hosted a luncheon where participants had the chance to reflect on their experiences and discuss the important work our principals do every day to support students and staff across the district. This event was a great way to strengthen community engagement and highlight the vital role of our school leaders.











BAJA Magnet Collab

The Communication Department has partnered with Edisto Elementary's Broadcasting and Journalism Academy (BAJA), a magnet program for 3rd through 5th grade students. Through this collaboration, BAJA students have had the exciting opportunity to announce recognitions, take photos, and operate broadcasting equipment during our Board meetings. Additionally, we've visited Edisto Elementary to engage with the magnet students, sharing insights into our work and fostering a deeper connection between the students and our department. This partnership has provided valuable hands-on learning experiences for the students and strengthened our community ties.













Speaking Engagements

Some members of our team had the opportunity to speak about our communication efforts at prominent events, including South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA), our OCSD Leadership Retreat, and the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE) conference, sharing insights and strategies with fellow educators and leaders.

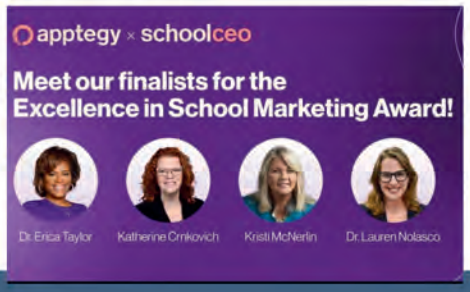






Recognitions

The Communications Team achieved significant recognition this year, earning several prestigious awards. These honors include accolades from the National School Public Relations Association's (NSPRA) Publication and Digital Media Excellence Awards, awards from the South Carolina Chapter of NSPRA (SCNSPRA), and Dr. Erica Taylor being named a finalist in Apptegy x SchoolCEO's Excellence in School Marketing competition.







Ribbon Cuttings

As we celebrate the opening of highly anticipated facilities across the district, we are transitioning from traditional groundbreakings to ribbon cuttings. This shift allows us to commemorate the completion of new spaces that will support our students and staff for years to come. So far, we've held successful ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Lake Marion Middle School, the Cope Area Career Center's Esports Lab, the Lake Marion Technology Center's Esports Lab, and the William J. Clark Middle School Addition. These events highlight the district's commitment to providing modern, innovative learning environments for our community.









EPA Press Conference

On Monday, February 12, 2024, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan traveled to South Carolina to celebrate funding for new clean school buses delivered to the state. South Carolina received $65.9 million for 168 new school buses from President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, which aimed to deliver environmental benefits, grow the economy, and create jobs and opportunities for communities across the country. OCSD hosted one of his stops in Orangeburg, at Marshall Elementary School.

The Administrator joined Congressman Jim Clyburn, local officials, and students to discuss the impacts of these investments and the nation's transition to a clean transportation future.

During the visit to Marshall Elementary School, Administrator Regan delivered remarks highlighting the 20 new electric school buses coming to Orangeburg County School District, answered questions from the press, and joined students and officials for an electric school bus ride.



New Website & Mobile App

This year, we transitioned our website from Blackboard to Finalsite, creating a more streamlined user experience for our staff, students, and parents. The new website design offers enhanced functionality, making it easier to navigate and access important information. In addition to the website upgrade, we launched a brand-new OCSD app, available for download on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. This app further improves communication and accessibility, allowing users to stay connected with the district and access key resources on-the-go.





Canva for District

Our Technology Department spearheaded the initiative to provide Canva as a free resource for both staff and students. This tool empowers our educators and learners to create high-quality materials for educational purposes, whether it's for lesson plans, presentations, posters, or other creative projects. By offering Canva as a district-wide resource, we're enhancing the ability of our staff and students to bring their ideas to life with ease and creativity.

Swank Streaming

Our Technology Department has successfully secured Swank K-12 Streaming for the district, providing staff and students with access to a wide range of educational movies without the concern of licensing issues. This new resource ensures that teachers can utilize films to enhance classroom instruction, support curriculum objectives, and foster student engagement, all while remaining compliant with copyright regulations.

Social Media

This school year, our focus has been on maintaining a strong Facebook reach while boosting engagement through likes and comments. OCSD has achieved the highest positive page reactions among surrounding districts, showcasing the quality and volume of community interaction. This accomplishment underscores the community's enthusiastic response to our district's online presence.

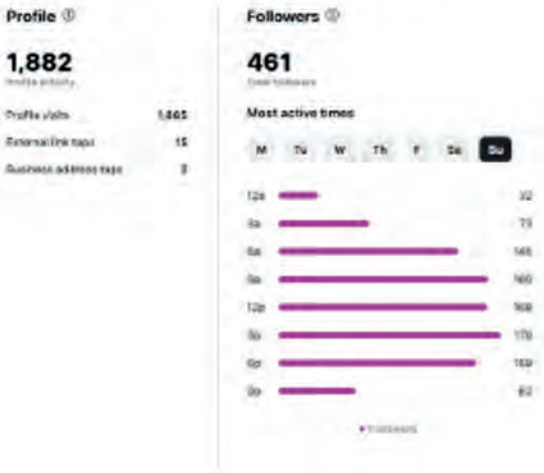






Our Instagram, launched just two years ago, has also seen significant growth. Since the beginning of the school year, we've experienced a 270.2% increase in reach and an 80.7% rise in followers.

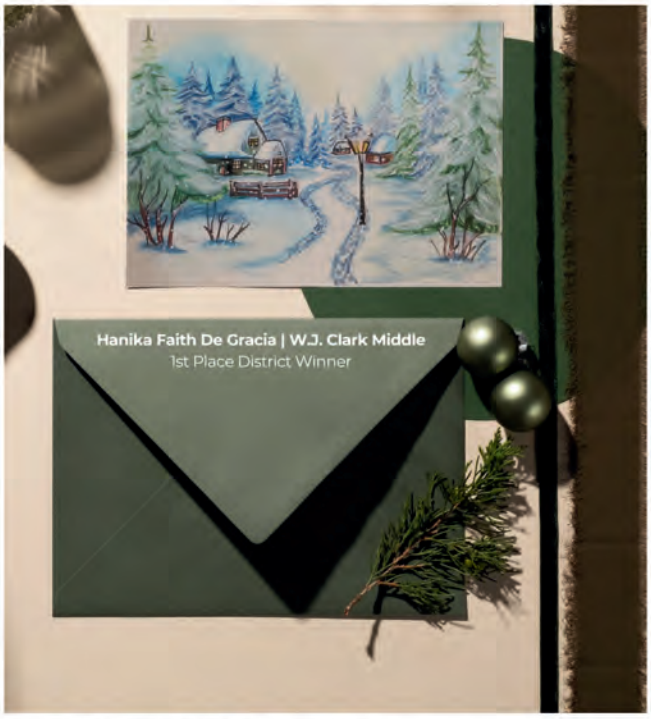
Through strategic experimentation, we've learned that photos, especially those featuring students, generate the highest levels of engagement across both platforms, with Instagram seeing particularly strong performance in this area.





Holiday Card Contest

In collaboration with the OCSD Arts Department, the district launched its inaugural Holiday Card Contest, inviting students from every school to showcase their artistic talents. This exciting competition offered students a unique opportunity to design the official holiday cards for both OCSD and the Arts Department.









Young Entrepreneurs at the Black Expo Columbia

For the second consecutive year, OCSD supported Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School students by donating business cards and retractable banners to help them promote their small businesses at the prestigious Black Expo in Columbia, SC. Armed with these professional tools, the students showcased exceptional entrepreneurial talent, offering handcrafted jewelry, trendy t-shirts, and fresh produce, captivating Expo attendees with their creativity and dedication.















Publications

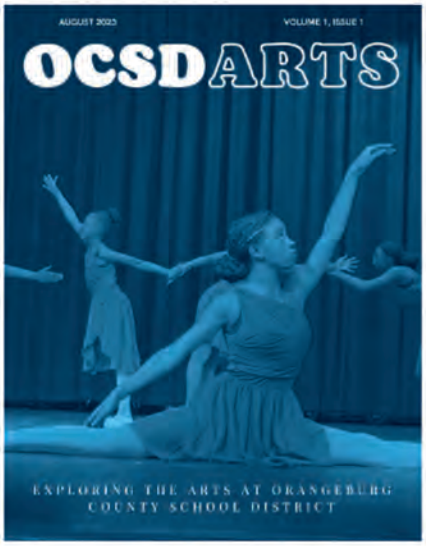
Orangeburg County School District gained visibility through marketing and advertising in several local and national publications. Features included a general spread in the new Discover Orangeburg Magazine by the Orangeburg County Chamber of Commerce, a teaching ad in the HBCU Times, and event advertisements in the Times & Democrat, the Orangeburg Leader, and on Community Broadcasters. Additionally, the district placed general ads in programs like the Orangeburg Civic Ballet, further enhancing its presence in the community.





Publications

The arts magazine series continued with the release of winter and spring editions, both available digitally on our website.







At the start of the school year, the district introduced a comprehensive Communication Handbook along with detailed guides for branding, customer service, and publicity. This initiative was designed to streamline communication efforts across all district offices and schools, ensuring consistency and professionalism in every interaction.

The handbook and guides provides clear protocols and standards for creating materials, such as flyers for events, and outlines best practices for engaging with stakeholders, including responding to concerns or inquiries. These resources serve as a vital tool for maintaining a unified approach to community outreach and internal communication.





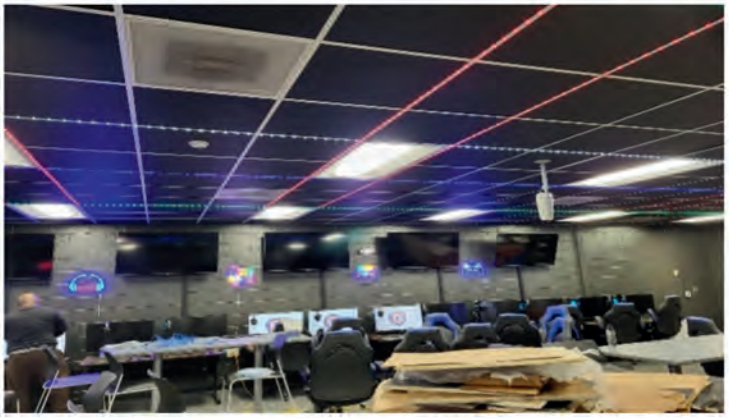




Technology

Esports Labs

The Technology Department alongside Operations played a critical role in launching the state-of-the-art Esports Arenas at the Technology Center, Cope Area Career Center, and Lake Marion Career Center. Our team provided expertise in data wiring, computer connectivity, and game programming, ensuring the successful setup of all gaming stations.









OneSync Account Automation

The district overhauled its user account automation process with OneSync. Accounts for students and staff are now seamlessly created and synchronized across multiple platforms, providing unified login credentials for easy access to essential applications.

Student Device Refresh

From 2022 to 2023, we began a district-wide refresh of student devices. This initiative was completed this year and included North Middle High, HKT Elementary and Middle High, Branchville, Lockett, and Lake Marion Middle and High Schools, ensuring students have access to modern, reliable technology.

Technology

Student ID Badge Expansion to Elementary Schools

This year, we expanded the use of student ID badges to include elementary schools. Previously available only to middle and high school students, all OCSD students now have badges featuring their school mascot and personal photo. This initiative enhances safety and fosters a sense of school pride across the district.



BETHUNE-BOWMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



EDISTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



SHERIDAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SchoolPass Expansion

We expanded the SchoolPass system to enhance student check-in and check-out processes. Students can now use their ID badges to streamline their arrivals and departures, adding convenience and efficiency for schools and families.

Updated Network Security Protocols

To strengthen district network security, new protocols were implemented, including external email banner notifications, email encryption capabilities, and a closed wireless campus to protect sensitive data and the district's network.

Technology

eFax Implementation (FaxCore)

The district transitioned to electronic faxing with FaxCore, enabling users to send and receive faxes directly through Outlook email. This system reduces costs associated with phone lines and simplifies communication, making faxing as easy as sending an email.

Sharp Copier Refresh

All district copiers were replaced with the latest Sharp models. These devices allow badge-based access for print release, copying, and scanning, and they integrate seamlessly with the new eFax system, featuring a convenient Fax button on copiers.



Cybersecurity Campaign

During October, the Technology Department led a Cybersecurity Campaign to promote safe online practices. Weekly tips were shared with staff, culminating in a video and custom mouse pads featuring quick online safety reminders.

Technology

LocknCharge Cabinets for Testing

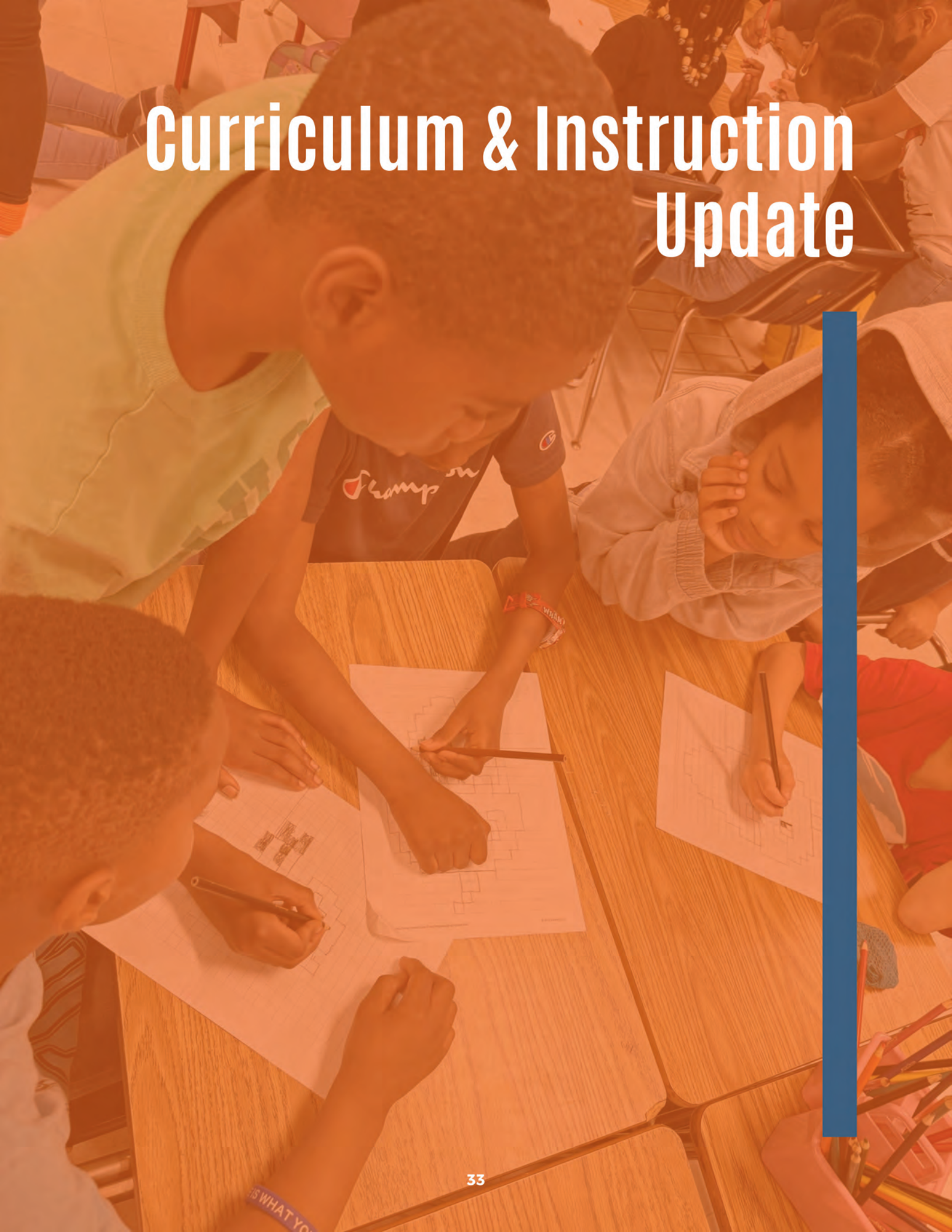
New LocknCharge cabinets were deployed to schools, providing centralized storage for devices designated for testing periods. These additional devices ensure schools have adequate technology resources during critical assessment windows.



Collaboration with OC Tech: DACUM and CPT Department Advisory Board

Technology team members participated in OC Tech's Developing a Curriculum (DACUM) process and served on the CPT Department Advisory Board. These efforts provide a vital bridge between industry expectations and academic offerings, ensuring the curriculum remains relevant, rigorous, and aligned with current trends and technologies. Through team member contributions, they directly influence the development of skillsets that enhance OC Tech students' employability, helping fine-tune programs to meet real-world demands effectively.

Curriculum & Instruction Update



Curriculum & Instruction Highlights

OCSD has accomplished the following due to the efforts of the C&I department:

780k ESTEAM GRANT BENEFITING THREE SCHOOLS.

1 NEW AGTECH MAGNET PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED AT EDISTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

54 END OF COURSE EXAM PERFECT SCORES.

3 ESPORTS STATE OF THE ART LABS

Cognia Accreditation

Orangeburg County School District has proudly achieved accreditation from Cognia®, a nonprofit organization recognized for ensuring quality education services. Cognia, known previously as AdvancED, sets high standards that districts must meet to create productive learning environments, ensure equitable resource distribution, and uphold effective leadership.

Earning this accreditation signifies that Orangeburg County School District adheres to the rigorous Cognia Performance Standards and is committed to continuous improvement. This status benefits not just one school within the district but extends nationally, spotlighting our schools' dedication to excellence.

"School accreditation from the Cognia Global Accreditation Commission signifies a nationally recognized mark of quality for our district. It emphasizes our commitment to excellence, our receptiveness to external review and feedback, and our determination to excel on behalf of the students we serve."

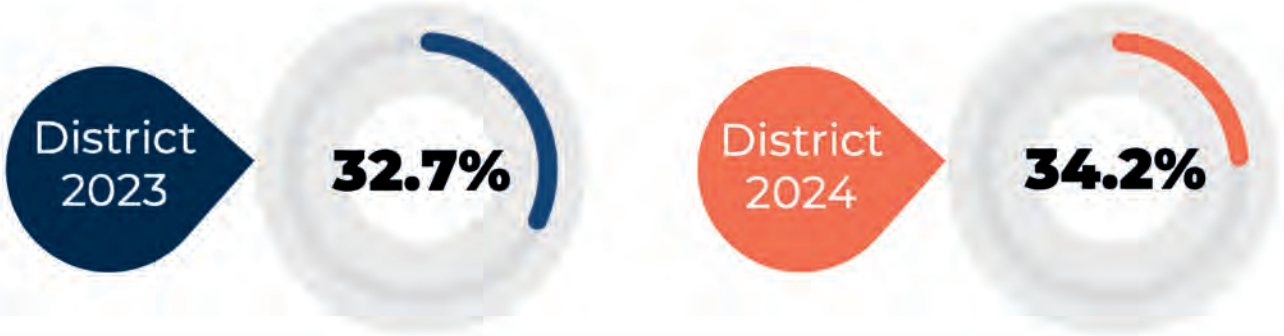
- Dr. Shawn Foster, OCSD Superintendent.



Student Achievement

ACHIEVEMENT
SCREADY ELA

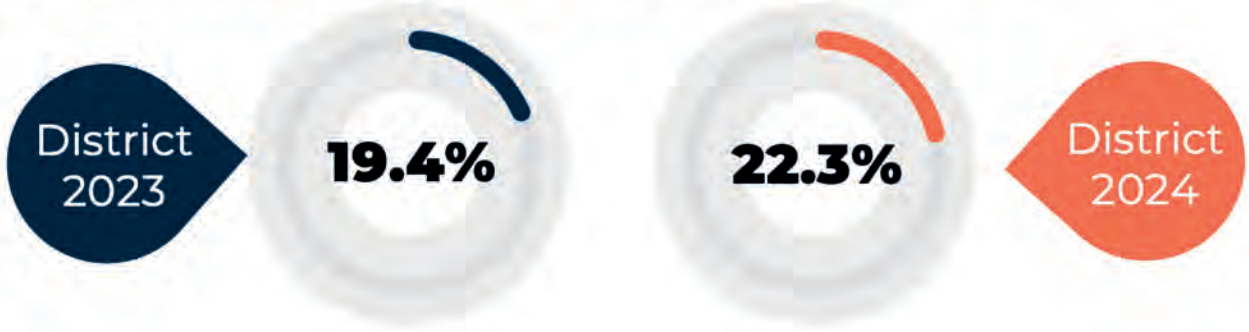
% of students scoring Met or Exceeding in 3rd-8th grades



The district achieved overall improvement across all areas of the SCREADY testing.

ACHIEVEMENT
SCREADY Math

% of students scoring Met or Exceeding in 3rd-8th grades



SCREADY Data Breakdown

SCREADY ELA-% Meeting Standard



ELA-Longitudinal Data

2023 Grade	2023 % Passing	2024 Grade	2024 % Passing	Difference
Grade 3	31.4	Grade 4	36.6	**5.16**
Grade 4	35.2	Grade 5	36.0	**0.82**
Grade 5	34.2	Grade 6	36.4	**2.25**
Grade 6	30.8	Grade 7	30.9	**0.03**
Grade 7	29.4	Grade 8	33.3	**3.85**

SCREADY Data Breakdown

SCREADY Math- % Meeting Standard



Math-Longitudinal Data

2023 Grade	2023 % Passing	2024 Grade	2024 % Passing	Difference
Grade 3	30.4	Grade 4	32.5	**2.10**
Grade 4	22.5	Grade 5	29.6	**7.09**
Grade 5	24.2	Grade 6	17.4	**-6.82**
Grade 6	16.6	Grade 7	13.6	**-2.94**
Grade 7	11.6	Grade 8	10.6	**-1.09**

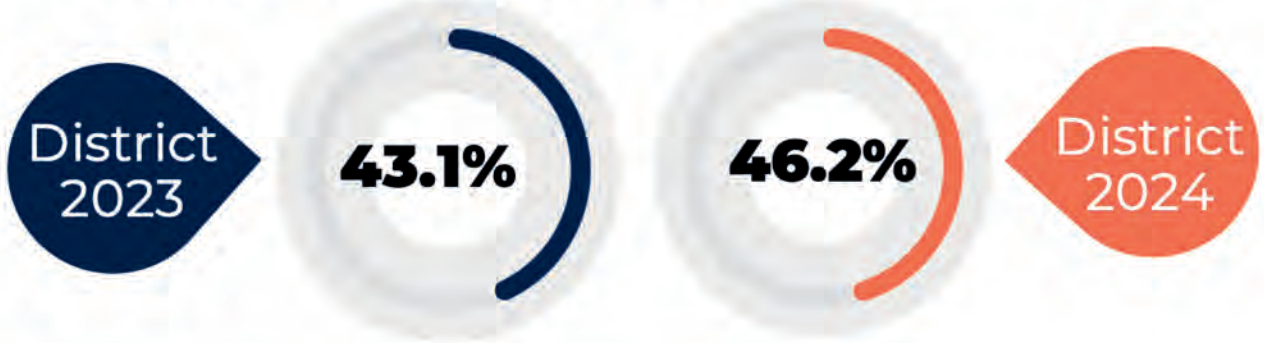
Student Achievement

The district demonstrated overall improvement across subjects on the End of Course assessments.

ACHIEVEMENT

EOCEP English 2

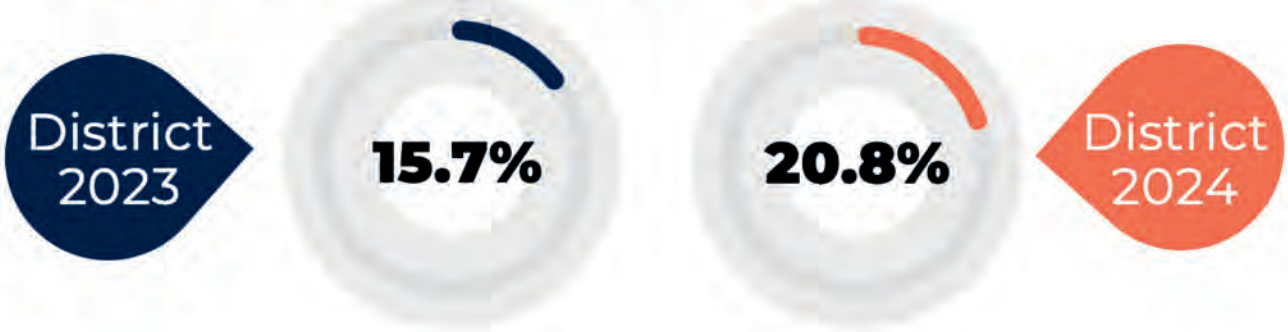
% of students scoring C or Higher



ACHIEVEMENT

EOCEP Algebra

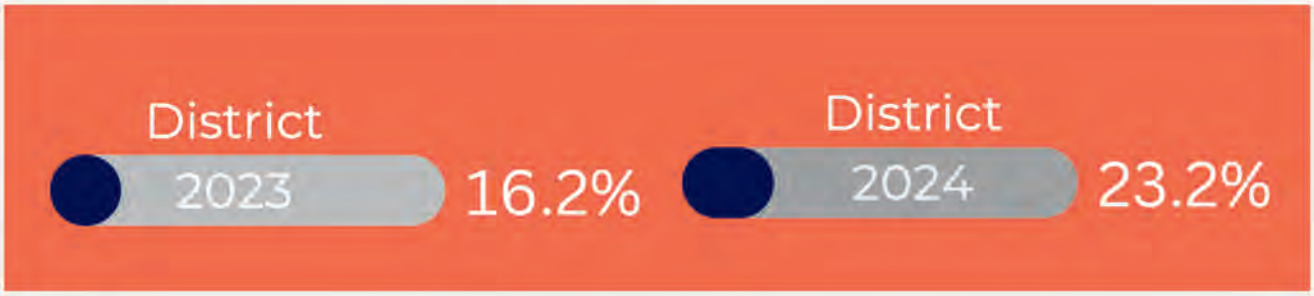
% of students scoring C or Higher



Student Achievement

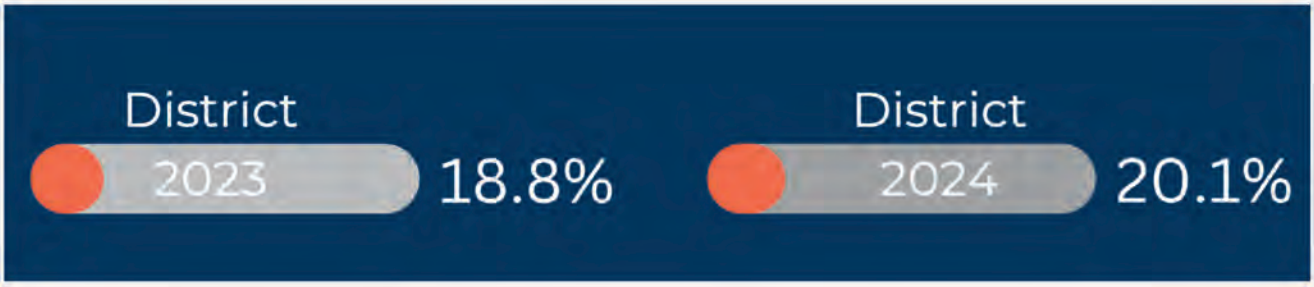
PREPARING FOR SUCCESS
EOCEP Biology

% of students scoring C or Higher



PREPARING FOR SUCCESS
EOCEP US History

% of students scoring C or Higher



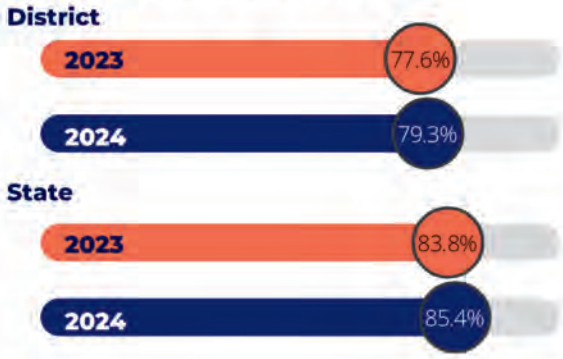
EOCEP Data Breakdown

End of Course Exam- % Passing



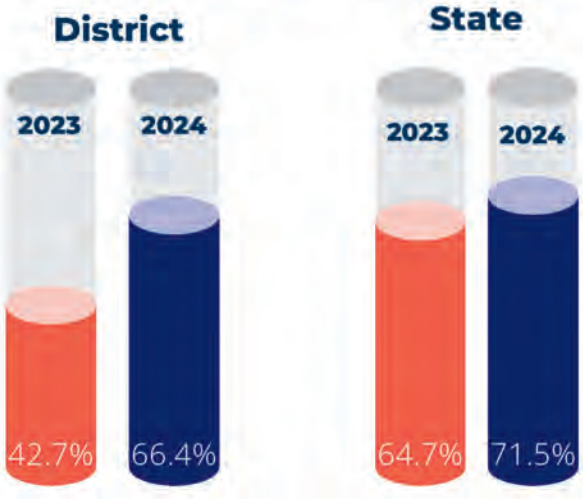
Student Data

Graduation Rate



College & Career Readiness

% of Students who are College or Career Ready

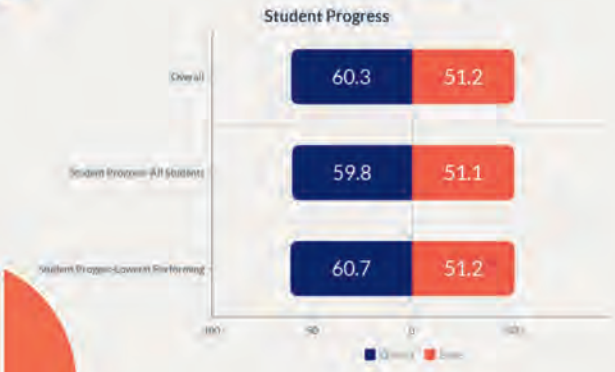


Student Data

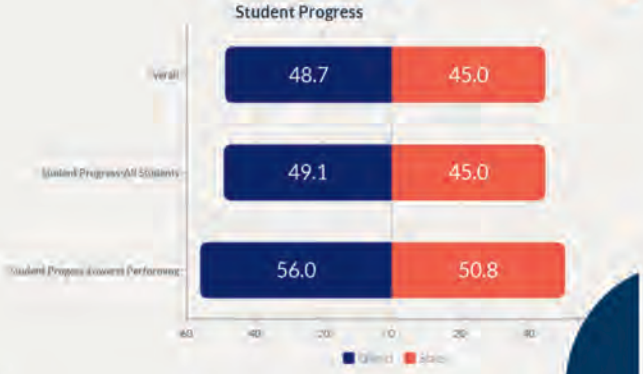
Student Progress

% of Progress Points Earned

2023



2024



School Climate

These points are based on a 10 pt. scale

Measure	District 2023	District 2024
Overall Perceptions of School Climate	6.19	6.56
Teacher Perceptions of Instructional Focus	7.43	7.70
Teacher Perceptions of Working Conditions	7.43	7.99
Teacher Perceptions of Safety	7.45	7.82
Student Perceptions of Social-Physical Environment	3.04	3.33
Student Perceptions of Safety	5.60	5.97

Inaugural Spelling Bee

In March, Orangeburg County School District hosted its inaugural district-wide spelling bee, highlighting the importance of language and literacy excellence among our students. The event featured 24 participants who demonstrated impressive dedication and skill. After fierce competition, Camarie Jenkins from Marshall Elementary School claimed first place, winning a $500 prize. Malachi Jean from William J. Clark Middle School secured second place with a $300 prize, while third place and $150 were awarded to JaQuittin Youmans from Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle/High School.

This successful event was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. Gulbrandsen led the way with a Gold Sponsorship of $500, while Silver Sponsorships of $250 were provided by Berry Enterprise LLC, Brothers Detective Agency, and Popeyes Chicken. Additionally, a special $100 donation from Karen Lee of Middleton Agency helped support the prizes for our winners. We are deeply grateful for the contributions of all our sponsors.



Inaugural Spelling Bee





Elementary Education

Elementary instruction saw significant updates with refined content curriculum guides and the PK-5 rollout of the 2024 ELA Standards. In June, teachers participated in the "Fearless Coaching" program to improve instructional delivery, while our "Quick Chat and a Snack to Go" monthly virtual sessions provided educators with quick insights and resources in a convenient format.







Waterford Early Reading Program

In a first for our district, twelve second graders completed the entire Waterford Early Reading Program sequence by February 2024, underscoring the program's impact on early literacy.

Milken Educator

Mrs. Amanda Fair-Coles from Dover Elementary School was recognized as a South Carolina Milken Educator and presented with a check for $25,000. The first-grade teacher at Dover Elementary School became the 2,970th Milken Educator in the journey toward the milestone 3,000th Milken Award. Following her surprise notification in January, Mrs. Fair-Coles, the 2023 South Carolina Milken Educator Award recipient, took an unforgettable trip to Los Angeles for the Milken Educator Awards National Forum. During the event, she was honored with an unrestricted $25,000 cash prize from Milken Educator Awards Founder Lowell Milken and Milken Family Foundation Co-Founder and President Mike Milken.







NATIONAL LIFE GROUP ‘LIFECHANGER OF THE YEAR’

Orangeburg County School District first grade teacher Mary Silene Stephens has been chosen as a 2023-2024 National Life Group LifeChanger of the Year Award Winner. She will receive a $3,000 prize, which will be awarded as a $1,500 individual prize and a $1,500 donation to her school, Edisto Primary School.





NIET Founder's Award Finalist

Lockett Elementary School in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, won $10,000 for its selection as an NIET Founder's Award finalist. The prestigious Founder's Award was created by Lowell Milken in 2008 to honor one school in the United States each year for exceptional implementation of NIET's principles to build educator excellence and advance student success. Lockett Elementary School is among five schools across the country under consideration for the $50,000 grand prize.



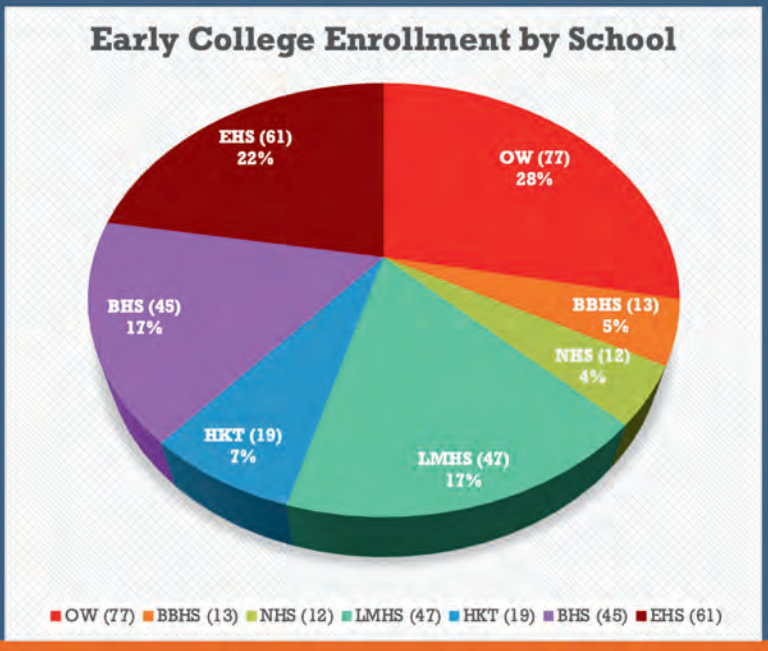
SC School of Excellence in Arts Education

Holly Hill Elementary School was honored as the 2024 STEAM School of Excellence by Palmetto State Arts Education, recognizing its outstanding efforts in advancing arts education. This prestigious award highlights the school's commitment to integrating the arts into its curriculum and fostering creativity and innovation among students. Holly Hill Elementary continues to lead the way in promoting the importance of arts education, shaping the future of young learners and honoring the trailblazers who have made significant contributions to the field.



Dual Enrollment

Current enrollment numbers from our Orangeburg Advanced College and Early College.



Honors and Awards

On April 25th, we celebrated the exceptional achievements of the top ten percent of graduating seniors from each school, honoring them as our Senior Scholars. This special recognition highlighted their hard work, dedication, and academic excellence.

On November 19th, we celebrated another group of outstanding students who achieved perfect scores on their End-of-Course Exams or SCREADY testing. These students exemplified academic mastery and set a standard of excellence for their peers.









Esports Tournament

Students from the Orangeburg Career and Technology Center had an exciting opportunity to participate in their first Esports tournament at the EdTech conference in Myrtle Beach, SC, this past November, showcasing their skills and representing our district on a competitive stage.



Food Truck

Last year, the district acquired and configured a food truck to support our culinary programs, providing students with a unique, hands-on learning experience and an opportunity to showcase their culinary talents in the community.





Secondary Education

Our secondary education initiatives included the introduction of refined pacing and curricular guidelines aligned with revised ELA standards, a streamlined course catalog, and an increased number of middle school students taking high school courses. We celebrated academic excellence at the Honors and Awards and Senior Scholars banquets, recognizing students with perfect scores and scholarly achievements.

Testing & Accountability

CRDC 21-22 Report Submitted: Our team successfully submitted the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) report for the 2021-2022 school year, ensuring compliance with federal reporting requirements and helping to track educational equity and outcomes.

Honors and Awards Banquet: At our annual banquet, we celebrated the remarkable achievements of 54 students who earned perfect scores on end-of-course and iReady exams, highlighting academic excellence across the district.

Senior Scholars Banquet: Each year, we honor the top achievers from each high school, recognizing 64 students in the top 10 percent of their graduating class. This banquet celebrates their dedication and academic success as they prepare for post-secondary education and careers.

Ed-Fi Implementation: The district implemented Ed-Fi, enhancing our data infrastructure to improve data quality, accessibility, and transparency, which will support informed decision-making and personalized student support.

Strategic and Renewal Plans Submission: The district submitted renewal plans to strengthen instructional initiatives and drive school improvement.

Federal Programs & Family Engagement

Our Bi-Annual Parent Engagement Summit held in the Spring and Fall, fostered valuable family engagement, enhancing connections with our school community.

Our Federal Pragrams Team also presented at the Title I Conference (SCATA).







Federal Programs & Family Engagement





Hope Initiative

In March, we held our second-ever Senior Acceptance Day at OCtech through the Hope Initiative, which provides all graduating seniors with the opportunity to be provisionally accepted to college. In 2023, 696 students participated, and in 2024, 646 students were part of this initiative. Over the course of two years, a total of 1,332 students have gained access to OCtech through Provisional Signing Day, offering them the chance to pursue a two-year degree or certificate program.

"We wanted to provide an opportunity for all OCSD students to attend college, should they choose to, upon graduation," said Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster. "We recognize the tremendous potential of our students, and through the HOPE Initiative, every student has the chance to achieve success after leaving OCSD. While some students have already charted their path, others may still be deciding, and the HOPE Initiative aims to remove any barriers they face in planning their future."

- Dr. Shawn Foster, OCSD Superintendent.





Gifted & Talented

Elementary Magnet program enrollment grew, and BAJA represented the district at the Magnet Schools of America National Conference, showcasing our gifted programs' success.

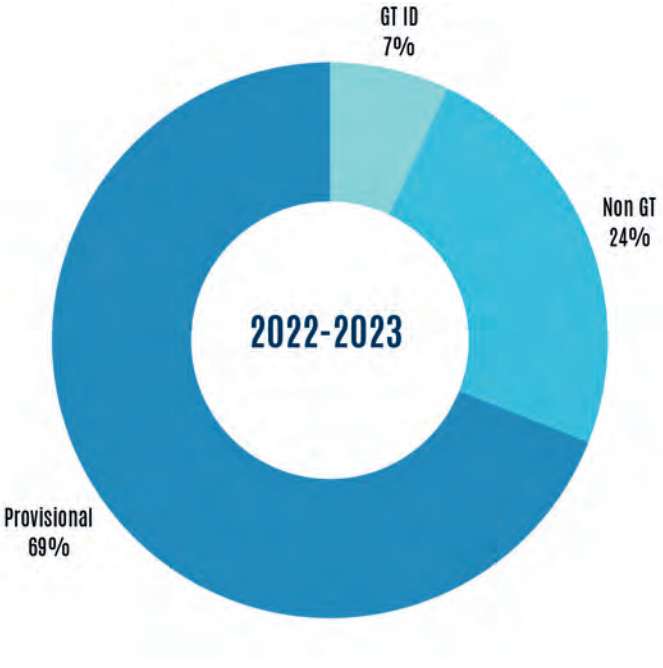
Magnet Enrollment 2022-2023

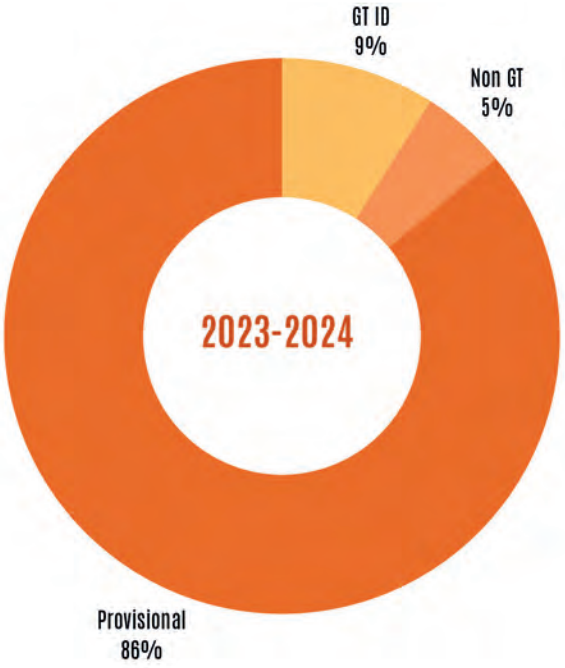
	BAJA		BSA		SAIL		STAGE		Total	
Total	**61**		**60**		**62**		**52**		**235**	
GT Identified	3rd	4	3rd	0	3rd	0	3rd	0	3rd	4
	4th	3	4th	1	4th	2	4th	0	4th	6
	5th	4	5th	2	5th	0	5th	0	5th	6
Non GT /Provisional	3rd	15	3rd	19	3rd	19	3rd	17	3rd	70
	4th	20	4th	17	4th	21	4th	17	4th	75
	5th	15	5th	21	5th	20	5th	18	5th	74

Magnet Enrollment 2023-2024

	BAJA		BSA		SAIL		STAGE		Total	
Total	**68**		**63**		**69**		**56**		**256**	
GT Identified	3rd	2	3rd	1	3rd	1	3rd	2	3rd	6
	4th	8	4th	0	4th	1	4th	0	4th	9
	5th	3	5th	2	5th	4	5th	0	5th	9
Non GT /Provisional	3rd	21	3rd	24	3rd	23	3rd	13	3rd	81
	4th	16	4th	21	4th	22	4th	20	4th	79
	5th	18	5th	15	5th	18	5th	21	5th	72

Magnet Enrollment Year to Year Breakdown







The Arts

"Through the Lens of a Child" is the STAGE Visual and Performing Arts Magnet's Spring expo which was sponsored in partnership with the Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. Students displayed and talked about their works of art with guests as participants moved from one exhibit table to another.











In February, students enjoyed creating a culinary masterpiece at the Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. A professional chef was on hand to provide Visual Arts students with food etiquette tips. They prepared grilled cheese sandwiches, a yummy fruit salad, and chocolate chip cookies.



Students in 3rd-5th grades enjoyed the dramatic performance of African Tales performed by the Henderson Davis Players at South Carolina State University on February 9th. They were even invited to participate on stage. They were led by Mrs. Ursula Robinson, Director of Drama.

BAJA was invited to attend the CALABASH festival at Claflin University, an annual Arts and Letters Festival on Claflin's campus that celebrates the humanities and social science with media, music, food, arts, student organizations, and campus entrepreneurs.Students explored the new studio and were provided the opportunity to view some of the student's masterpieces as part of the Mass Communications department.



OCSD Honor Choir

The Orangeburg County School District formed its first Honor Choir, an exciting new initiative showcasing the vocal talents of students from grades 4 through 9. This groundbreaking project, driven by the dedicated music teachers of OCSD, signifies a major step in promoting musical excellence and cultural enrichment within the district.

The Honor Choirs are divided into two ensembles: Choir 1, featuring students from grades 4 through 6, and Choir 2, comprising students from grades 7 through 9. These choirs aim to enhance students' choral singing abilities, develop music literacy skills, and promote healthy vocal production. Participants will delve into a diverse array of musical genres, providing a rich educational experience that emphasizes both the joy and discipline of excellent singing.





SC Honor Choir

Four outstanding students from Elloree Elementary School—Neshel Mantle, Marvelle Edwards, Mehki Fogle, and Messiah Harrison—have been honored as members of the 2024 S.C. Elementary Honor Choir. Their remarkable talent and dedication to music earned them this prestigious recognition.



Summer Programs

E-360 Scholars Institute

This 8-day summer program is open to all students in grades 4 through 8 that received gifted services during the school year. Summer 2024 of the institute offered courses in decoding (Let's Debug), financial literacy (Financing My Future), STEM (Solar Chefs), and creative writing (Podcasting 101). Parents come out to see what the students have learned and created during the culminating event.





Broadcasting and Journalism Camp

BAJA students will be attending summer camp where they will be given the opportunity to design, produce, write, and publish multimedia content including visual arts, journalism, and telecommunications. Students will complete projects where collaboration, communication, cooperation, and competition will be practiced.

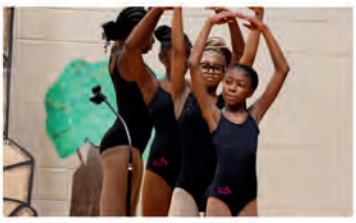




Summer Arts Academy 2024

The Summer Arts Academy 2024 offered students opportunities to advance their talents in various artistic disciplines, cultivating creativity and self-expression.








Standards

ELA

The district advanced literacy initiatives with regular Reading Coaches Roundtables and Monthly ELA Meetings to align instructional strategies. The New Textbook Rollout and preparation for the 2025 ELA Standards further solidified a cohesive, updated curriculum.

MATH

Significant progress in math instruction included the PK-2 2025 Math Standards Rollout, refined curriculum guides, and Monthly Math Meetings to provide ongoing instructional support. Professional Development Tuesdays offered educators additional opportunities to enhance their teaching strategies.







SCIENCE

Science education experienced a transformative year with the Full Implementation of New Science Standards and engaging activities like the Elementary and Middle School Science Extravaganza and Regional Science Fair Competition. Faculty attended the National Science Conference, and early-release Tuesdays were dedicated to professional development. The district also prepared faculty, staff, and students for the awe-inspiring Solar Eclipse, ensuring a meaningful scientific learning experience.







EPIC STEM Lab

STEM U, in partnership with Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle School, proudly announced the opening of the EPIC STEM Lab, designed to transform STEM education in the community in April. This collaboration emphasizes both organizations' dedication to providing hands-on learning experiences and preparing students for success in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

The EPIC STEM Lab features state-of-the-art facilities, an innovative curriculum with project-based learning, and a focus on equitable access to STEM opportunities for all students.









eSTEAM Grant

Orangeburg County School District secured $779,959 in grant funding over four years to launch Project eSTEAM (Empowered by Science, Technology, Engineering, Agriculture, and Math). This initiative, planned for Brookdale, Edisto, and Sheridan Elementary Schools, introduces an afterschool and summer program for 75 students in grades K-5. The program aims to enhance academic achievement and engagement in English language arts, math, STEM, and agriculture, fostering both academic success and personal development.

Save the Children

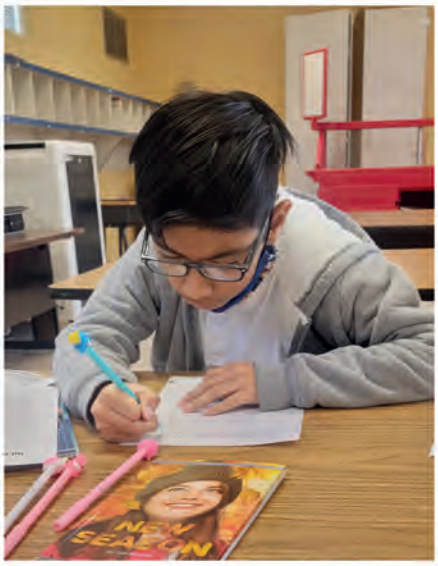
Orangeburg County School District secured a $25,000 "Eat Right Today" grant from Save the Children, aimed at enhancing food security for families in need. Through this initiative, Save the Children Early Steps for Success (ESS) and ten Sponsorship student families receive monthly grocery allotments, including healthy meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and pantry staples. The Food for Thought van plays a key role in sourcing these items from the SC Farmer's Market and wholesale warehouses, ensuring families have consistent access to nutritious food.

Additionally, the district provided 810 units of non-perishable meals to community summer programs in collaboration with OCSD Food Services. This effort reflects a strong commitment to addressing food insecurity and supporting the well-being of students and their families across the district.



Multilingual Learner Program

The Multilingual Learner Program made significant strides this year, serving 405 students across 26 schools with the support of 7 ML teachers. A major accomplishment was 25 students earning the SC Seal of Biliteracy, while 29 students successfully met the program's exit criteria. The district hosted its first International Day Festival in January 2024, celebrating cultural diversity and fostering inclusivity. Additionally, three Family Nights were held at the East, Central, and West schools to engage families and strengthen support for multilingual learners. Teachers benefited from several professional development sessions to enhance instructional strategies. The program also proudly participated in the Orangeburg County International Day Festival, further showcasing the district's cultural richness. Monthly meetings for the ML team ensured effective collaboration and continuous improvement throughout the year.









Finance Update



Finance Highlights

Through the hard efforts of OCSD's Finance team we have accomplished the following:

151M BUDGET FOR THE 24-25 SCHOOL YEAR

4 CONSECUTIVE YEARLY EMPLOYEE RETENTION BONUSES

0% NO TAX INCREASE IN THE LAST THREE YEARS

3 YEARS OF CLEAN AUDITS

Fiscal Year 2025 Approved Budget

The school board approve the FY25 budget at the June 11, 2024 board meeting for $151,827,615.

	FY 25 Approved Budget	Fy 24 Approved Budget
Revenue	$148,829,112.00	$143,383,007.00
Fund Balance	$2,998,503.00	-
Revenue + Fund Balance	$151,827,615.00	$143,383,007.00
Expenditures	$151,827,615.00	$143,383,007.00

Fiscal Year 22-23 Risk Assessment

The scores for each criterion are totaled for an overall risk score that indicates low, medium, or high-risk categories. Overall risk scores 18 or below indicates low risk, risk scores between 19 and 28 indicate medium risk, and risk scores 29 and above indicate high risk.

Orangeburg County School District's overall risk score is "14" which is considered low risk.

- 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)

Financial Services Ratings

MOODY'S Ratings (Moody's) has assigned a MIG 1 rating to Orangeburg County School District, SC's $155 million General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2024. Moody's maintains the district's A2 issuer and A2 general obligation (GOULT) ratings. The district has $55.54 million of long-term debt outstanding.

Moody's Investors Service

S&P Global Ratings

S&P Global Ratings assigned its 'SP-1+' short-term rating to Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), SC's roughly $155 million bond anticipation notes (BANs). At the same time, S&P Global Ratings affirmed its "SP-1+' short-term rating on the district's outstanding notes, Maturing Aug 16, 2024.

Finance in Action

Gail Sanders, Assistant Superintendent for Finance participated in Parental Leave Panel at the SCASBO Spring 2024 Conference



The Finance Department attended the SCASBO Conference in Myrtle Beach, SC and were the Spring 2024 Trivia Champions.





The Finance Department held a special training for new bookkeepers in August. They were provided with training on financial procedures and how to navigate in the ERP Pro Financial Platform.



Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Results

The school district received an unmodified opinion on its annual financial audit, which is the highest possible rating.

ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

I. Summary of Auditor's Results

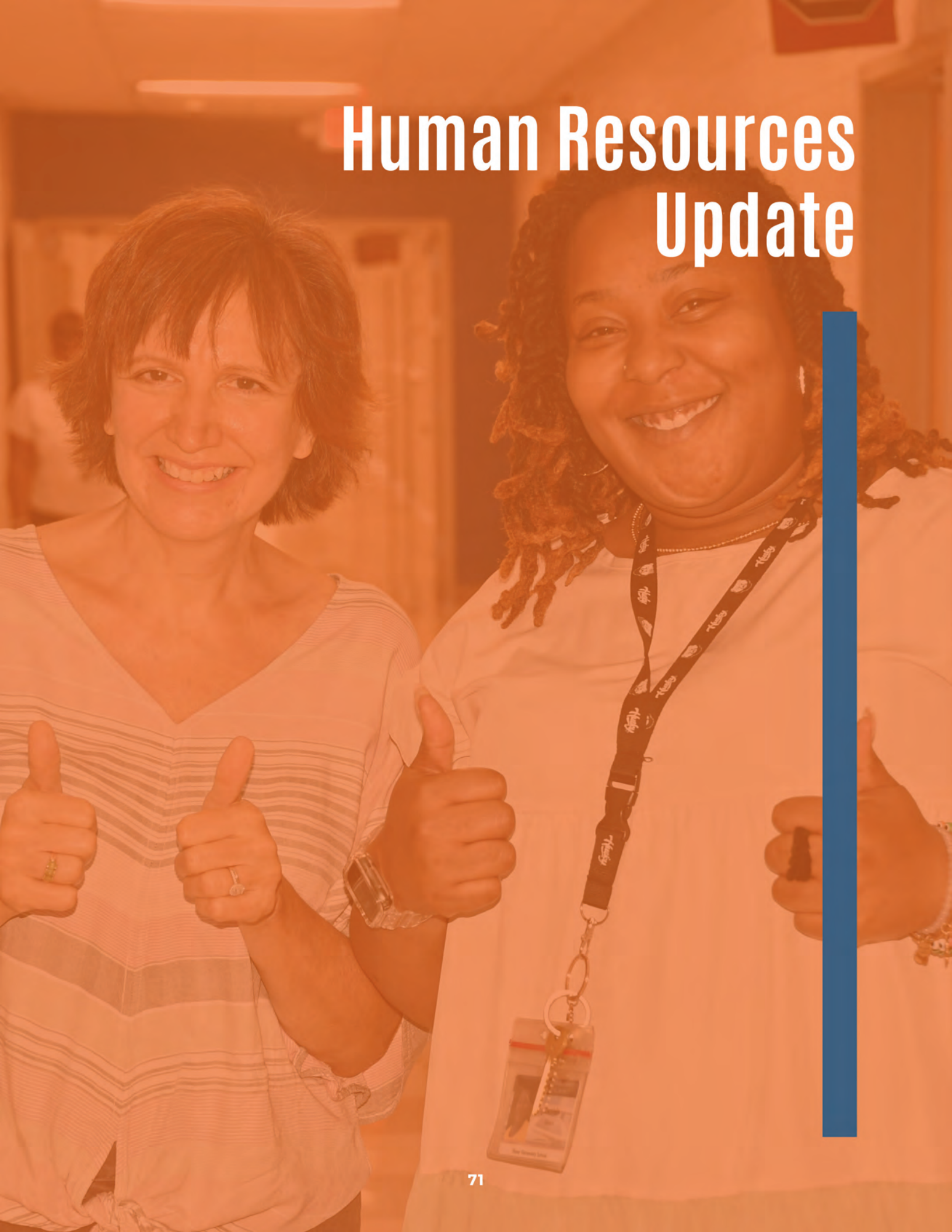
Financial Statements

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?	No
Significant deficiency(ies) identified?	None Reported
Noncompliance material to the financial statements noted?	No

An additional $7,650,428 was added to the District's Fund Balance, bringing the total Fund Balance to $43,757,744 as of June 30, 2024.

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures	$ -	7,650,428	$ 7,650,428
FUND BALANCE, JULY 1, 2023		36,107,316	
FUND BALANCE, JUNE 30, 2024		$ 43,757,744	

Human Resources Update



Human Resources Highlights

OCSD's Human Resources Department achieved significant milestones during the 2023-2024 school year, focusing on employee well-being, teacher recruitment and retention, and staff recognition.

29 OCSD EMPLOYEES IN THE FREE MASTERS PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH VOORHEES UNIVERSITY

121 TEACHERS WHO ARE NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED OR PURSUING CERTIFICATION

6 STUDENT TEACHERS SIGNED CONTRACTS TO TEACH IN ORANGEBURG COUNTY

8.5 TOTAL DISTRICT VACANCIES

Recruitment

Through the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), OCSD implemented Pro Team and Teacher Cadet programs in all middle and high schools to encourage students to explore teaching careers. These initiatives aim to address the teacher shortage by inspiring future educators from within the Orangeburg County community.

The district also hosted its annual Student Teacher Luncheon for South Carolina State University and Claflin University student teachers assigned to OCSD schools. This event not only offered teaching contracts but also resulted in the employment of several student teachers.







National Board Certification

In partnership with Life2, OCSD provided teachers the opportunity to pursue National Board Certification through a free cohort during the 2023-2024 school year. Recognizing that teachers with National Board Certification experience a turnover rate 6.5% lower than their peers, this initiative underscores the district's investment in teacher retention and professional growth.








School Transitions

To ensure a smooth transition for staff impacted by school consolidations, OCSD conducted joint transition meetings. These meetings included team-building activities and guidance on the staffing process for schools like William J. Clark, Robert E. Howard Middle Schools, and East Lake Elementary, which consolidates staff from St. James Gilliard, Vance-Providence, and Holly Hill Elementary Schools.

Employee Appreciation











Celebrating staff achievements remained a priority for OCSD. The district hosted its Second Annual Employee Appreciation Event in collaboration with the City of Orangeburg. A joint awards ceremony also honored school-level Teachers and Support Staff of the Year, along with the district's Top Five finalists for the newly introduced Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year awards.





Teacher Forum

The Teacher Forum, comprised of the Teachers of the Year from each school, continued its mission of supporting and enhancing the school community during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Top 5 members contributed significantly by assisting in the development of the school calendar and attending key events, including the State of the School Address. Under the leadership of Audrey Irick, personal gifts were distributed to all Teachers of the Year during NEA Week.

Mrs. Irick also served as a speaker at various district events, such as Speak Life, the NEO Academy, the Spelling Bee, and the Retirement Banquet. Additionally, the Teacher Forum led impactful initiatives, including coordinating the Stuff the Bus campaign for the district and organizing donations for the Orangeburg Salvation Army in February.









Operations Update

Operations Highlights

OCSD's Operations Department has accomplished the following:

3 NEW FACILITIES WILL BE OPEN BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

4 NEW SCHOOL BUSES

$40M SC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT TO BUILD A NEW ROBERT E. HOWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3 NEW SCOREBOARDS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED

Security

Law Enforcement - Security Roundtable

On September 19, 2024, the Orangeburg County School District hosted a Law Enforcement – Security Roundtable Meeting. This event brought together law enforcement officials from across the county to review and refine procedures and protocols for intruder and active shooter drills. This collaborative effort underscored the district's commitment to safety and preparedness.



School Resource Officers (SROs)

The district currently benefits from the presence of 20 School Resource Officers (SROs), 10 of whom are supported through grant funding. These officers are sourced from multiple local agencies, including:

- Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office
- Orangeburg Department of Public Safety
- North Police Department
- Holly Hill Police Department

Special Emergency Response Team (SERT)

Emergency Procedures and Crisis Management Plan – All employees of Orangeburg County School District received the Emergency Procedures and Crisis Management Plan.

The schools of Orangeburg County School District and their communities are sometimes subject to emergency situations which may require taking preventive or protective actions to secure students, school personnel, or property. The focus of this plan is three-fold:



- To increase the capability of the district and its component schools for preventing or minimizing injury to the school population in the event of the threat or actuality of an emergency.
- To ensure continued incorporation into the curriculum of subject matter and materials related to modern-day emergency problems and to those of the foreseeable future.
- To reaffirm the cooperative alignment of our schools with other agencies and departments serving the emergency needs of the same communities.

Construction

Robert E. Howard Elementary School

State Superintendent of Education Ellen Weaver announced a transformative $40 million grant during our August Board Meeting to fund the construction of a brand-new Robert E. Howard Elementary School. This remarkable investment in our community represents a significant step forward for our students and families. We extend our deepest gratitude to State Superintendent Weaver and the General Assembly for their unwavering commitment to the future of our students. Construction for this project will start in March, with students projected to move in by the 2026-2027 school year.





Construction

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

Significant progress has been made on the construction of the new Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School. Crews have successfully laid the foundation, as well as completed critical underground plumbing and electrical wiring, marking key milestones in the project.







Construction

East Lake Elementary School

East Lake Elementary School is nearing completion and is now in its final stages of construction. On January 3, 2025, the school will welcome students from Holly Hill Elementary School, as their current building is set to be demolished to create additional parking. Following rezoning, students from properly zoned areas in the eastern portion of Orangeburg County will begin attending East Lake Elementary in the 2025-2026 school year.





Construction

William J. Clark Middle School School

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new addition to William J. Clark Middle School took place on December 3, 2024. This expansion will enable students from the central area of Orangeburg County to attend a single middle school. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, all middle school students in the central region will transition to William J. Clark Middle School.









Construction

Lake Marion Middle School

Lake Marion Middle School was completed in July 2024, and it opened its doors to students at the start of the 2024-2025 school year. The school now serves students from Holly Hill-Roberts Middle School and 6th through 8th graders from Elloree K-8. Located on the Lake Marion campus, the middle school operates as a separate building while providing students access to the resources and facilities of the High School and Technology Center, enhancing their educational experience.





Facilities & Maintenance



Press Box Improvements at Lake Marion High





Roof Repairs & Replacements

OCSD is actively making long-term investments in the buildings by completing roof replacements and repairs throughout the district. Roof Replacements during this calendar year were at Elloree Elementary, Cope Area Career Center, and The Technology Center. Partial Roof replacements were done at Edisto Primary School and numerous roof repairs throughout the district to include Lake Marion, Branchville, and Bowman.

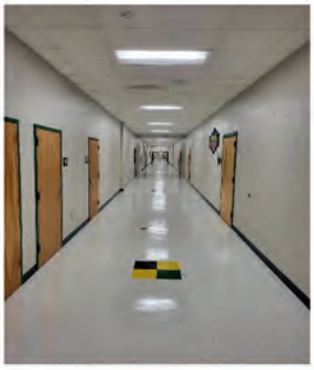
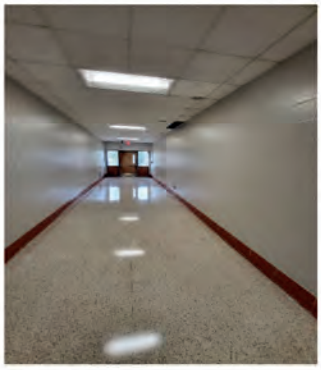


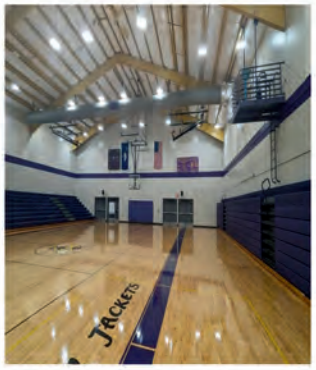


Facilities & Maintenance

Painting

Orangeburg County School District has completed painting projects in several locations to include North Middle/High School, The Technology Center, Branchville/Lockett, Elloree, and Lake Marion.

HVAC Upgrades

OCSD has continued with the HVAC unit replacements in multiple locations including the large 130 ton Gym unit at Lake Marion, William J. Clark Kitchen, Edisto High School, and The Technology Center.





Boardroom Upgrades

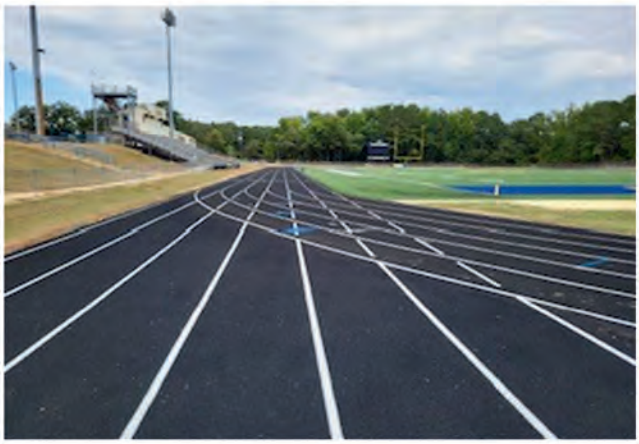
OCSD funding the renovation of the district's boardroom to accommodate all members of the school board and had custom carpet installed with the district logo.



Facilities & Maintenance

Athletic Field Improvements

OCSD addressed the drainage issue at Lake Marion Baseball and Softball Field by providing additional drainage through swells and resurfacing and installing an ADA compliant walkway. Edisto High School had new track surface installed and Lake Marion new runways for track.









Scoreboard Upgrades

Orangeburg County School District invested in new digital scoreboards for the Lake Marion High, Edisto High, and Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High.





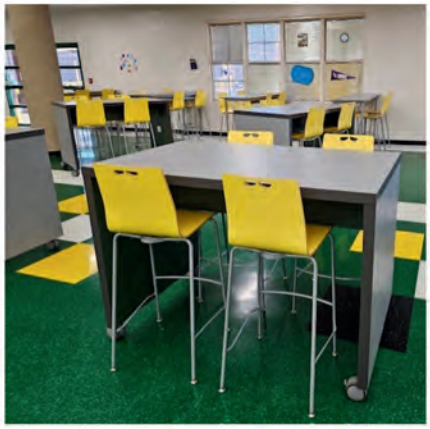


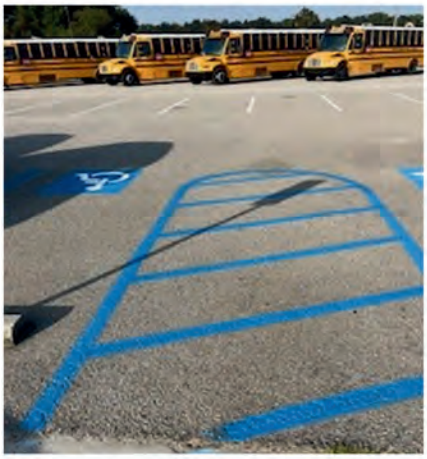
Facilities & Maintenance

Facility Upgrades

OCSD provided funding for pressure washing services for Lake Marion Facility, Parking Lot restriping, and additional signage that included the new Lake Marion Middle School Campus. Branchville/Lockett had gutter replacement over a portion of the campus and additional lighting was added to Mellichamp Elementary. Lake Marion received new cafeteria furniture. Edisto High School had lighting upgrades for the parking lot and window replacement in the front of the building.











School Nutrition

Leadership Series with Managers

Joe Petit, the founder and CEO of New Leaf Leadership, led a Leadership series with our Cafeteria Managers on leadership skills, communicating and leading school kitchens, how to present your best and how to deal with different types of staff personalities.





Serving Lines with wheels (ESSER III)

ESSER III funds were available to help with purchasing serving lines that could be moved for social distancing if needed. Serving Lines were purchased for Marshall Elementary, The Orangeburg Career & Technology Center, Robert E. Howard Middle School and William J. Clark Middle School.









School Nutrition

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program

The 23-24 Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program was awarded to five (5) elementary schools: Mellichamp Elementary, Sheridan Elementary, Bethune-Bowman Elementary, Brookdale Elementary, and Edisto Elementary.

The FFVP provides a variety of free, fresh fruits and vegetable snacks to children at eligible elementary schools.The goal of the FFVP is to introduce children to fresh fruits and vegetables to include new and different varieties, and to increase overall acceptance and consumption of fresh, unprocessed produce among children.

Each school had Carolina Produce, our produce vendor, come out and show students different produce and taste them. It was a very fun and educational experience for students.









Student Services Update



Student Services Highlights

OCSD has accomplished the following due to the efforts of the Student Services department:

100% ATHLETIC PROGRAMS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE NEW UNIFORMS

90+ STUDENTS RECEIVED FREE SHOES THROUGH THE HAPPY FEET INITIATIVE

40% DECREASE IN FIGHTS OVER THREE YEAR SPAN

$20K CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP GIVEN TO 14 ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Field Experiences & Career Cafe'









College Tours

South Carolina State University Bus Tour

On October 25th, South Carolina State University welcomed seniors from across the district to their campus, where they offered scholarships, advice from scholars and a campus tour.









Claflin Panther Preview

On November 25th, students from across the district to their campus attended Claflin University Panther Preview, showcasing what they have to offer.







OCSD College & Career Spirit Week









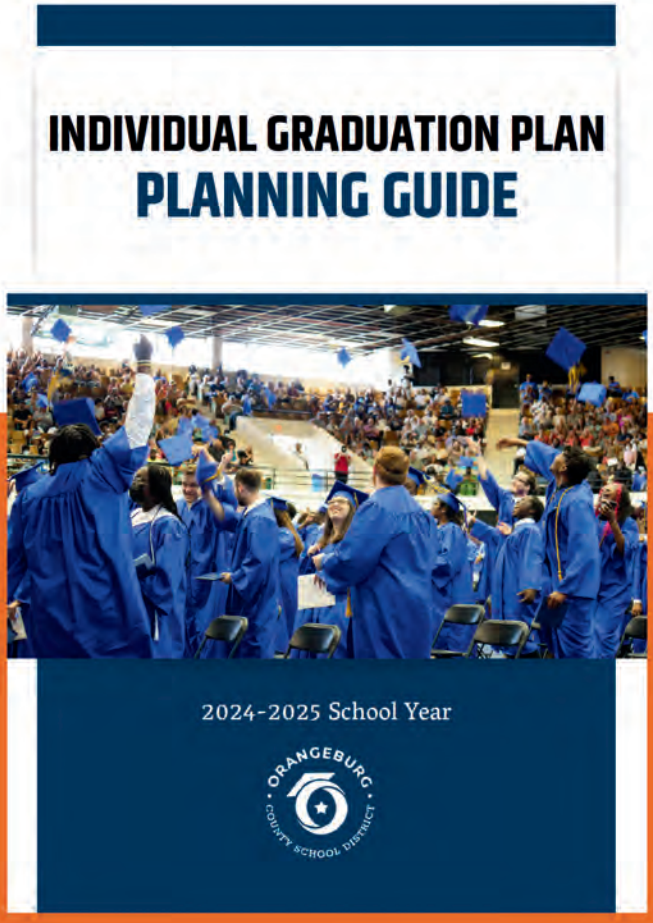


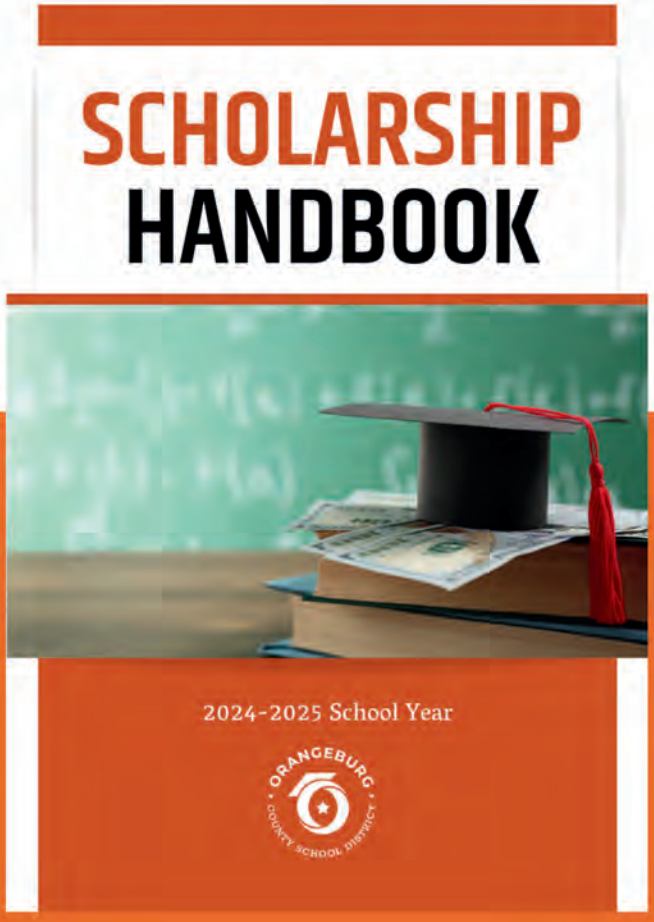




Updated IGP & Scholarship Booklets

This year, the Counseling Department made significant updates to the Individual Graduation Planning Guide and the Scholarship Handbook. In addition to providing printed copies to all high school students, both resources are now available online. This digital version allows students to easily access and click on links to valuable resources, streamlining their path to graduation and helping them explore scholarship opportunities with greater convenience. These updates reflect the department's commitment to supporting students in navigating their educational journey with accessible, up-to-date information.





Happy Feet 2024

In partnership with Orangeburg Rotary and the Tiffany Grant Foundation, Orangeburg County School District gave over 90 students a brand new pair of tennis shoes from Hibbetts Sports.





EVERFI

Now in its fourth year, the EVERFI Empowered Seal is a designation awarded to public school districts that have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to comprehensive education strategies on topics such as financial literacy, health, and careers. For the second consecutive year, Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) has been awarded the Everfi Seal of Empowerment, recognizing its unwavering commitment to a holistic approach in educating the whole child.

As part of this ongoing commitment, OCSD recently collaborated with MUSC Orangeburg and Everfi to host an impactful event at Lake Marion Middle School, where students engaged in meaningful discussions about mental health and self-care. This initiative emphasized the importance of nurturing students' emotional health and equipping them with strategies to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

EVERFI®
from Blackbaud
Empowered District
2024







Parent Engagment

In December 2023, OCSD kicked off its efforts with a festive Holiday Gathering. By February 2024, the district's Parenting Team collaborated with Children's Trust to deliver ACES training, equipping parents with tools to address adverse childhood experiences.

In March 2024, the district saw a flurry of activity, including the launch of a book vending machine at Piggly Wiggly in Neeses to promote literacy. The district also partnered with Family Connection SC to provide training for families of students with disabilities in Cope and hosted a Rural Health Fair with MUSC in Bowman, offering vital resources to families.

April brought a focus on positive parenting strategies as Dr. Gina Kunz from CFEC presented effective classroom management and parenting techniques at Sheridan Elementary. This was followed in May by strategic planning meetings for the Parenting Team and Spring Family Engagement Sessions at Edisto High, Lake Marion High, and OW High.

The summer months of July and August 2024 were filled with professional development and engagement initiatives. OCSD's Parenting Team held training sessions at Clark Middle School, including "Tapping into Powerful Parent Engagement" and workshops with Carolina Family Engagement Center and First Steps, emphasizing new strategies to strengthen school-community partnerships and parental involvement.






Vanessa


iREADY
DATA
MATH
SCIENCE

SC State Black Out Game

Faculty, staff and students had the opportunity to attend the October 31st game free of charge.







Special Olympics

On April 12, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School hosted the District-Wide Special Olympics in partnership with the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department. A week later, on April 19, Edisto Primary School held its own Special Olympics, celebrating inclusivity and the remarkable achievements of student athletes.













Red Ribbon Week



Schools across the district held spirit weeks and parades to commemorate Red Ribbon Week, Ribbon Ribbon Week is designated in October to advocate against drugs. Since its beginning in 1985, the Red Ribbon has touched the lives of millions of people around the world. In response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, angered parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing Red Ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs in America.

Making Partnership



OCSD partnered with the Orangeburg Community of Character to launch the Young Leaders in the Making initiative. This semester-long program featured a series of activities and field trips designed to cultivate leadership skills and character development among students.

Gun Pledge

School counselors throughout the District hosted Anti-Gun Violence activities and OCSD partnered with the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and Reclaiming Our Youth Services during our National Day of Concern.







Visit from Congressman Khanna and Congressman Jackson

Congressman Ro Khanna and Congressman Jonathan Jackson visited Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, engaging with students in classrooms and concluding their visit with a conversation focused on technology careers. Their visit provided valuable insights and inspiration, leaving a lasting impression on students aspiring to pursue opportunities in the technology field.









Athletics

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) made significant investments in its athletic programs this year, ensuring student-athletes are well-supported both on and off the field. All student-athletes received brand-new uniforms, showcasing school pride and fostering team spirit across the district.

Through our partnership with MUSC and Athletic Trainers, 365 student-athletes received free physicals this year. Brittney Miller, MUSC Athletic Trainers Coordinator, provided valuable training to all OCSD coaches during the Fall Coaches Summit. MUSC continues to support our high schools by providing athletic trainers and rehab support associates for all athletic programs.



Additionally, to prioritize the health and safety of athletes, trainer tables and athletic tents were provided to all middle and high schools. These resources enhance the capabilities of physical trainers in delivering on-site care and support during practices and games.

Athletics






HOME OF THE CARVER ROBINS COUGARS
COUGAR NATION


MOHAWKS
BETHUNE - BOWMAN HIGH SCHOOL
WARRIOR PRIDE


WELCOME TO THE HIVE
FEEL THE STING


NORTH
WE ARE NORTH EAGLES
FLY EAGLES FLY


HOWARD STRONG!
HOWARD BRUINS


HOME OF THE CLARK GREYHOUNDS


MOHAWKS
BETHUNE - BOWMAN HIGH SCHOOL
WARRIOR PRIDE


IT GOES DOWN IN THE DEN!




GATORS
WELCOME TO THE SWAMP
Gators Nation Stand Up!


GATORS
WELCOME TO THE SWAMP
We Are Gators Nation!

Athletic Recognitions

Basketball

Bethune-Bowman Middle/High School Boys' Basketball team were crowned Region Champions, Lower State Champions, and State Runner-Ups. Coach of the Year honors went to Charles McCray, while Bryson Robinson was named Region 7 1A Player of the Year and earned an All-State Selection. North Middle/High School Boys' Basketball team were named Region Champions and Upper State Runner-Ups. Keith Parks received Coach of the Year recognition, and Stetson Stack was awarded Region 4 1A Player of the Year and an All-State Selection.





Wrestling

Edisto High School celebrated wrestling success in February 2024, with Kaleihl McKenzie becoming the Lower State Champion in the 150 lbs weight class. Four additional wrestlers qualified for the state: Jackson Collins placed 2nd in the 190 lbs weight class, Brody Nettles placed 3rd in the 120 lbs weight class, Cason Joyner placed 3rd in the 165 lbs weight class, and Ricky Benson placed 3rd in the 175 lbs weight class.



Athletic Recognitions

Volleyball

Branchville High School emerged as Lower State Champions in November 2024 and State Runner-Ups, while Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School finished as Lower State Runner-Ups during the same month.









Inaugural District-Wide Track Competition

In April, the district hosted its first-ever district-wide track competitions at Lake Marion, showcasing the talents of middle school and high school athletes from across Orangeburg County the competition was coordinated by Lake Marion High School Athletic Director, Jarvis Davis.



Speak Life Day 2024

This year, over 3,000 students took part in the Speak Life Movement, an initiative led by Hayward Jean, Director of Student Services. As a part of the campaign, ice cream treats and Speak Life inspirational bracelets were distributed to students and teachers to symbolize the "sweetness" of kind words and positive communication.

The district's commitment to fostering a culture of kindness and respect was recognized as the district was named a Speak Life District of Distinction. This honor highlights the ongoing efforts to promote positivity and support students' emotional well-being throughout Orangeburg County.













MLK Oratory Contest

This year, in alignment with our strategic plan, the MLK Oratory Contest was hosted in the eastern region of Orangeburg County at the Santee Convention Center on January 30, 2024. The contest showcased the eloquence and passion of our young scholars, with Imani Jean from Edisto Elementary earning first place, Neshel Mantle from Elloree Elementary as the runner-up, and Zionna Carmen from Dover Elementary securing third place.

During the event, Claflin University President Dr. Dwaun Warmack made an incredible announcement, pledging a $20,000 scholarship to all orators, contingent on meeting specific criteria in high school. The time has come to honor that pledge! Claflin University has invited our MLK Oratory scholars and their families to a special luncheon and awards ceremony at their new Student Center on Monday, April 22, 2024

Adding to the excitement, WIS-TV Studios invited our orators to be featured on Soda City Live with news anchor Billie Jean Shaw. On Thursday, February 29, 2024, students had the unique opportunity to tour the studio, gain a behind-the-scenes look at broadcasting, and participated in a special live taping.









Dream Girl Conference

Some of our students had the opportunity to attend the dream girl conference in Charleston, SC on March 16, 2024.







Mellichamp Shoe Giveaway

At Mellichamp Elementary School's Meet the Teacher Night, families benefited from a shoe donation pick-up and school supply distribution, made possible through the generous support of InnerSole, Absolute Total Care, and The James E. Clyburn Research & Scholarship Foundation.





Beta Club

We congratulate the Junior Beta Clubs from St. James-Gaillard, Mellichamp, Elloree, Holly Hill, Lockett, Vance-Providence, Edisto, and Holly Hill-Roberts for their outstanding performances at the 31st Annual Elementary/Junior Beta Convention. We also commend Branchville Senior Beta Club for their impressive achievements at the 86th Annual Senior Beta Convention.

Additionally, several students earned recognitions at the Elementary National Beta Convention:

- Rhett McAlhany from Lockett received 7th place in Mixed Media Elementary.
- Ameko Jarrett from Holly Hill earned 2nd place in Hand-Drawn Anime Elementary.
- Zachary Goodwin from Holly Hill placed 4th in 5th Grade Language Arts.
- Tania Cerritos-Gomez from Holly Hill secured 1st place in Mixed Media Elementary.
- Daleyza Vazquez-Lagunes from Edisto placed 6th in 4th Grade Spanish.
- Imani Jean from Edisto earned 1st place in Speech Elementary.





Student Achievements

Three exceptional 2024 seniors from Orangeburg County School District were awarded $1,000 scholarships by the Tri-County Regional Chamber of Commerce! Nicholas Smith from Branchville High School is now attending Clemson University to study Chemical Engineering. Ta'Miya Clinton from Lake Marion High School is pursuing a Nursing degree at the University of South Carolina Upstate. Arnaisa Stephens from Bethune-Bowman High School has embarked on her journey in Baking and Pastry Arts at Helms College.





Tyrese Keitt and Shaliyah Seawright, two twelfth grade students from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, for being recognized by Big Future for their outstanding PSAT scores! Both have earned the National African American and Rural Recognition Awards.

Two students from Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, Vantasia Montgomery and Giovanni Medina Diaz, achieved perfect scores on all four of their EOCEP tests, a remarkable accomplishment showcasing their academic excellence.



Follow Us



TO GET CONNECTED WITH US

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to build a better educational landscape for Orangeburg County.

Contact

102 Founders Ct.
Orangeburg, SC 29118

www.ocsdsc.org
public.relations@ocsdsc.org