



YEAR IN REVIEW

Dec. 2024 - Dec. 2025

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Message from the Superintendent

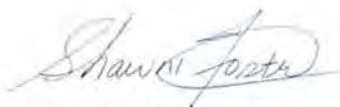
"Success is not final. It is the courage to continue that counts." – Winston Churchill

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the dedication, resilience, and shared purpose that define our district. Our theme, Building Capacity, Sustaining Success 2.0, revisits and strengthens the foundation we laid last year. It represents not just a continuation but a deepening of our commitment to excellence in every classroom, every office, and every interaction. This year, our focus on customer service has been central to our growth. We believe that how we treat people, including our students, families, staff, and community partners, shapes their experience with OCSD and reflects who we are as a district. Through purposeful training, clear expectations, and a renewed emphasis on communication, we have worked to ensure that every person who walks through our doors feels valued, respected, and supported.

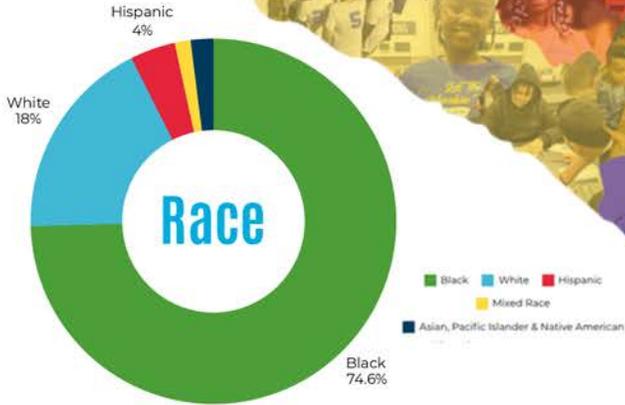
At the same time, we have remained committed to sustaining the progress we have made academically, operationally, and culturally. From strengthening instructional practices to expanding opportunities for students, our efforts throughout the year reflect a district that is not only moving forward but doing so with intention. Sustaining success requires consistency, collaboration, and a shared belief that our best work is still ahead, and this year our schools have demonstrated that in powerful ways.

As you read through this Year in Review, you will see evidence of a district united by purpose and driven by possibility. Each achievement captured in these pages reflects the collective effort of our administrators, teachers, staff, students, families, and community. Together, we have continued to build capacity and nurture a culture where success is not a moment but a mindset.

Thank you for your support, your partnership, and your trust in Orangeburg County School District. Because of you, our vision remains strong and our future even stronger.



DR. SHAWN D. FOSTER
OCSD SUPERINTENDENT



We Are ONE.

Students are Career and/or College Ready **75.1%**

\$41.4M
Student Scholarships

Free Lunch
All Schools

10 Magnet Programs
5 Elementary
3 Middle
2 High

Title 1
All Schools

17
Languages Spoken

9.7k
Students Enrolled

28
Schools
13 Elementary
3 Middle
3 Middle/High
4 High
3 Tech
2 Alternative

1.8M
Miles Traveled 24-25
6,890 students transported
305 total routes
195 total buses
20 total electric vehicles

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

885 Support Professionals
934 Certified Educators

86% District Poverty Rate

80.4% Graduation Rate

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.
- 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



Orangeburg County School District officially kicked off the 2025–2026 school year with a convocation experience like no other. Held at South Carolina State University, the event brought together nearly 2,000 employees for a morning filled with purpose, pride, and motivation.

Hosted by Jay Dukes, the program kept the crowd energized with school shoutouts, a live music light show, and the unmistakable spirit of a district ready for the year ahead.

Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster unveiled this year’s theme, “Building Capacity and Sustaining Success 2.0,” and charged staff to continue leading with intentional growth, strong customer service, and a commitment to excellence. “Orangeburg County School District is our brand,” he said. “It is up to us to keep that brand strong, respected, and at the top of the charts.”

The district also celebrated its partnership with the MUSC Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness. Twenty-two schools received \$1,000 for their work in health and wellness, and Ellore Elementary earned the Grand Prize of \$2,000.

National author and educator Dr. Shree Walker delivered a keynote centered on mindset, resilience, and purpose. She honored two OCS D employees, Joanna Milledge and Dr. Steven Preast, as the 2025 Resilient Walker Award recipients.



Convocation

Convocation also recognized OCSD's top performers:

- Teacher of the Year: Talicia Clarke (William J. Clark Middle)
- Alternate Teacher of the Year: Roman Singleton (Edisto High)
- Support Staff of the Year: Melissa Kinard (Cope Area Career Center)
- Alternate Support Staff of the Year: Keith Parks (North Middle and High)
- Assistant Principal of the Year: Lynette Milhouse (Lake Marion Middle)
- Principal of the Year: Debra Norman (North Middle and High)

OCSD extended appreciation to Jostens for gifting custom rings to award recipients and to Nissan for donating two vehicles for the 2025–2026 Teacher of the Year and Support Staff of the Year.

To close the celebration, employees headed to the Orangeburg County Fairgrounds for a festival-style experience with 40 food trucks. The atmosphere felt like a district-wide family reunion, filled with connection and excitement.

The 2025 Convocation was more than an event. It was a reminder that when educators unite around a shared vision, their collective impact has no limits. OCSD enters the new school year inspired and ready to move forward together.



Convocation



Convocation



SC Superintendent of the Year

The South Carolina Association of School Administrators (SCASA) has named Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District (OCSD), the 2026 Superintendent of the Year. This statewide honor follows his recent recognition as the 2025 Superintendent of the Year by the South Carolina Athletic Administrators Association (SCAAA), underscoring his impact as one of South Carolina's most transformative education leaders.

Since his appointment in 2020, Dr. Foster has led OCSD through a period of remarkable progress, including:

- Passage of a \$190 million bond referendum supporting major facility upgrades and new school construction.
- Growth of the district's fund balance from \$7 million to more than \$44 million.
- Completion of a \$42 million performance contract to modernize mechanical, lighting, and safety systems.
- Creation of eight magnet programs, the first Advanced College Program, and an award-winning Esports initiative.
- A 19% increase in kindergarten readiness and reducing the number of unsatisfactory schools from eight in 2022 to one in 2025.
- Launch of the HOPE Initiative, ensuring all seniors receive provisional acceptance to Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

He has also prioritized workforce development through a no-cost master's program for educators and the district's first "Grow Your Own" teacher and leadership pipelines.

Dr. Foster holds a Doctor of Education from South Carolina State University and serves on the SCASA Superintendents' Affiliate Executive Committee, along with participating in regional superintendent's consortia.

These honors not only celebrate Dr. Foster's leadership but also highlight OCSD's transformation into a district defined by innovation, opportunity, and sustained success.

SC Superintendent of the Year



Leadership Retreat

This year, Orangeburg County School District successfully hosted its Leadership Retreat in Charleston for the second time, bringing together department leaders, principals, and assistant principals for two days of collaboration and learning.

The retreat featured interactive team-building exercises and targeted leadership training designed to strengthen our district's leadership capacity. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, problem-solving activities, and strategic planning sessions that enhanced both individual and collective effectiveness.

The experience offered a purposeful balance of professional development and team bonding, reinforcing our commitment to continuous growth and unity within our leadership team. As we continue to build capacity and sustain success across the district, the Leadership Retreat remains a valuable opportunity to align goals, strengthen relationships, and inspire excellence.



Coffee with the Superintendent

This school year, Orangeburg County School District continued its commitment to open communication and community engagement through our Coffee with the Superintendent where Dr. Shawn D. Foster discusses the topics that matter most to the community. So far, we have hosted three Coffee with the Superintendent events across the county—each offering a unique atmosphere and an opportunity to strengthen relationships within our school communities.



Our first stop this year was at Hunter-Kinard-Tyler, where families and staff came together for meaningful dialogue about academic growth, school climate, and student opportunities. The intimate school setting provided space for thoughtful questions and collaborative problem-solving.

Next, we met with families and community partners at Dunkin' in Orangeburg, where the casual, upbeat environment encouraged open discussion about district initiatives, transportation, and progress toward our strategic plan goals. We extend our sincere appreciation to Dunkin' for sponsoring and hosting this event, creating a warm and energizing space for open conversation.

Most recently, the series traveled to Country Corner Café in Holly Hill, where local families gathered over breakfast to discuss school improvement, community partnerships, and ways to elevate the student experience. We are grateful to Country Corner Café for generously hosting and supporting this gathering, helping us bring the conversation directly to the heart of the community.

Across all three locations, the message was consistent: Orangeburg County School District values the voices of our stakeholders. Coffee with the Superintendent continues to serve as a powerful platform for clarity and connection.



Student Advisory Roundtable

Orangeburg County School District launched the Student Advisory Roundtable, a new initiative created to ensure that students' voices were not only heard but used to guide meaningful change across the district. Through this platform, students were able to share their perspectives on key topics related to their educational experiences, contributing valuable insight into decisions that impact daily school life.

The Roundtable quickly became a catalyst for positive action. Students helped introduce vape detection measures to discourage smoking on campuses, creating a safer and healthier school environment. They also led a community-centered Easter Basket Giveaway for local Orangeburg-Calhoun-Allendale-Bamberg Head Start programs, spreading joy to young children and strengthening connections within the community.



Student Advisory Roundtable



2nd Cohort of the Leadership Academy

Orangeburg County School District celebrated the graduation of the second cohort of its distinguished OCSD Leadership Academy, an intensive eighteen-month professional development program designed to cultivate the next generation of school leaders across the district.

The Academy provides aspiring principals and assistant principals with rigorous training in instructional leadership, school operations, education law, equity, communication, and student achievement. Participants including teacher leaders, current assistant principals, and new principals engaged in a comprehensive curriculum featuring mentorship from experienced district leaders, book studies, hands-on projects, and leadership development aligned with the district's core values.

The 2025 OCSD Leadership Academy Cohort II graduates are Dr. Amanda Steinmetz, Dr. Rovonia Owens-Hilliard, Lashonda Backmon, Dr. Sheridan Coleman, Dr. Stacey Rock-Gilmore, Kenya Dantzler, Terri Franklin, Tequilla Allen, Miranda Knight, Wendy Morancie, Dr. Kelly W Hayden, Dr. Javion Simpson, Michael Horoski, Dr. Johnerra Taylor, Kurtis Yarbrough, Patricia Hampton, Loraine Redwood, Alyssa Mitchell-Pelzer, Audrey Irick, Dr. Demestress Dee Bell, Denise E Simpson, and Kimberly Glover.



Staff Serving in National and Statewide Leadership Roles

Several Orangeburg County School District leaders continued to strengthen the district's influence and professional presence across South Carolina by serving in significant statewide leadership positions.



Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster served in several significant statewide and national capacities, including the NIET Advisory Board, the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Executive Committee, and the SCASA Executive Committee.

Liana Calloway served as Secretary for the South Carolina Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE) and also served on the Executive Board of the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE).



Ernest Holiday contributed his expertise as a member of both the SCASA Personnel Affiliate Executive Committee and the SCASA Board.

Loretta Gadson-Washington served as Secretary for the SCASA Personnel Affiliate, further supporting statewide personnel initiatives.



Jesse Washington served as Chairman of the SCASA Palmetto's Finest Committee, helping to recognize exemplary schools across the state.

Dr. Erica Taylor served as President-Elect for the South Carolina Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (SCNSPRA).



Hatara Tyson served as the Midlands Representative for SCNSPRA and contributed to the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) through her work on the Benchmarking Committee.

Dr. Bernard E. Frost served on the ISTE+ASCD Chief Instructional Leaders Council, the SC Learning Forward Board, the PSTA Foundation for Professional Development Board, and the SCASA Instructional Leaders Executive Committee.



Staff Serving in National and Statewide Leadership Roles



Dr. Wanda McMichael served as Secretary of the SCASA Testing and Accountability Roundtable.

Priscilla Hollington served as President of the South Carolina Consortium for Gifted Education, Treasurer of the Edisto Reading Council, and Chair of the SCASA Gifted and Talented Roundtable.



Amanda Looper contributed to statewide mathematics education as a Board Member for SC Leaders of Mathematics Education, serving in the role of Community Relations.

Sharon Wilson, Director of Federal Programs, was elected Chair-Elect of the SCASA Grant and Federal Programs Roundtable.



Dr. Mary Williams was elected Vice President of the South Carolina Early Childhood Education Association. She previously served as President and Treasurer of SCECA District 7.

Dr. Vickel Darby, Coordinator of Early Learning and Instructional Technology, was elected Secretary of SCECA District 7, continuing her commitment to strengthening early childhood instruction.



Brenda Gadson continued her service as Treasurer of SCECA District 7, supporting the organization's financial operations.

Their collective leadership reflects the district's ongoing commitment to professional excellence, statewide collaboration, and elevating the voices of Orangeburg County educators in shaping the future of education across South Carolina.

Communications Update



Communications Highlights

OCSD's Communications Department has accomplished the following:

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Consider hosting meetings at nontraditional, easy to reach locations and neutral sites such as community centers instead of at schools or government buildings to make people feel more comfortable. Ensure that these sessions include stakeholders from diverse populations and various socio-economic backgrounds.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Convocation & State of the District where held at nontraditional sites.
OCSD will seek permission to be added to the agenda of community meetings or forums that were previously scheduled instead of creating new ones. Ask partner organizations already meeting with their members to host focus groups.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Leadership Orangeburg visit to the district office, Rotary Club speaking engagements, SCASA i3 Conference
Leverage individuals as ambassadors that have gained the trust of the community. (Use this subgroup that will include additional district and community stakeholders as OCSD Ambassadors.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Oversite Committee
OCSD will seek out and ask the stakeholders that lead organizations in our community to help share and receive District News and updates through innovative technology methods. (OCSD WhatsApp Community).	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Email groups (Dignitaries, Clergy & Ad Hoc groups)
Increase every employee's sense of belonging by expanding the Employee of the Year recognition to include bus drivers, recognizing employees for years of service in increments of 5 years, have staff morale booster celebrations at least 3 times a year	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	End of Year Transportation Celebration & Recognizing Transportation Bus Driver and Monitor of the Year at board meeting and social media.
Increase every student's sense of belonging by recognizing a student of the month at each school, recognizing a student of the year at the district level, increasing student participation on school/district committees, incorporating the use of culturally relevant resources/curricula, increasing districtwide competitions	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Student Advisory Board Vape Detector Committee
Increase communication and more stakeholder involvement in district/school operation by developing a program to recruit volunteer participation in the school/district, recognizing and celebrating volunteers through special events, utilizing data from surveys to assist schools/district in improving culture and climate.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Principal for a Day (SY 24-25 & SY 25-26)

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Provide exposure to various cultures by recognizing cultures according to yearly calendar, planning school district culture days, providing a district day of culture celebration	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	International Festival PD Sessions
Develop opportunities throughout the district that celebrate diversity and inclusion by providing equitable opportunities and access for all students, increasing staff participation through the establishment of school/district committees	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Teacher Forum/TOY and SSOY Committees & Fundraisers In the Works: Student Advisory Panel (SY 24-25 & SY 25-26)
Provide two-way communication in various languages		✓	Call-Outs Emails Text Messages
Provide parent engagement support for student achievement (choice & voice)	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Parent Engagement Summits (Title 1)
All staff to participate in all-inclusive climate and communication survey to gather feedback and data	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Teacher & Student Climate Surveys
Provide effective, timely communication and equal access to support unity across the district and community	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Parent Messaging All Staff Emails Social Media Posts Website
Promote activities and partnerships that support the health and wellness of students and employees by establishing and promoting a district-wide wellness plan, establishing a sick-leave bank for OCSD staff	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	MUSC Wellness Partnership
Provide effective support for students and families who are English Speakers of Other Languages	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	MLP Program & MLP family Nights
Increase promotion and publicity for the arts through the development of a digital quarterly arts magazine.	May 2022/June 2022	✓	OCSD Arts Magazine
Increase Public Relations presence in and out of the state to include social media, correspondence, job fairs and community events.	August 2022/ongoing	✓	Social Media Geofencing, T&D Ads, Soda City Live Visits

Forging Partnerships

We established several exciting partnerships that are expanding opportunities for our students and staff. Our collaboration with the International African American Museum in Charleston now provides free field trips for OCSD students. We also partnered with Palmetto Citizens Federal Credit Union to offer teachers \$15,000 in assistance toward purchasing a home. Additional partnerships with BOEING and MUSC Wellness continue to support the district's growth, innovation, and well-being.

This year, we are building on that momentum by forging new relationships with Scout Motors, EdVenture Children's Museum, the University of South Carolina College of Education, Nickelodeon Theater, and Dunkin' Coastal Franchises. As the school year progresses, we look forward to developing even more partnerships that enrich the educational experience for our students and strengthen our community connections.



Alumni Spotlight

In January 2024, 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. 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

As a token of our appreciation, each school received a thank-you cake to celebrate the dedication and hard work of our educators.



ChangeSC

OCSD partnered with the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) and its ChangeSC initiative to host the district's inaugural School and Community Farm Stand. The initiative was designed to provide students and families with fresh, locally grown produce while promoting healthy eating habits and supporting local farmers.

The farm stand took place at Lockett Elementary School and Branchville High School, where a Certified SC farmer offered fresh produce to students and the community.

The first farm stand began with 40–45 third-grade students shopping using a strawberry parfait recipe card. Each student took home a pint of Certified SC strawberries and local honey at no cost. Later, approximately 150 middle school students participated in the same experience.

The farm stand remained open throughout school pickup, sports practices, and an evening parent event, allowing families and community members to shop throughout the day.

This initiative reflected OCSD's commitment to supporting local agriculture, expanding access to nutritious foods, and engaging families in meaningful community-based experiences. Through the ChangeSC partnership, students and families had the opportunity to learn about and enjoy the benefits of fresh, locally sourced produce.



ChangeSC



Principal for a Day

For the second year in a row, Orangeburg County School District celebrated National Principal's Month in October with our annual District-Wide Principal for a Day event. This initiative gave local elected officials and community partners the unique opportunity to shadow our principals and gain firsthand insight into the challenges and responsibilities of the role. Following the event, participants joined a luncheon at the Orangeburg Country Club to reflect on their experiences and discuss the critical work principals do daily to support students and staff across the district. We extend our gratitude to Santee Development Corporation for sponsoring this meaningful event.



Principal for a Day



Principal for a Day



Speaking Engagements

Orangeburg County School District's Office of Communications, Business and Community Partnerships team members have been busy sharing their expertise, elevating OCSD's story, and helping shape the statewide and national conversation on effective school leadership and communication.

Over the past several months, OCSD presenters were invited to speak at major state and national conferences and events, including the South Carolina School Boards Association (SCSBA), the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE), and the South Carolina/North Carolina NSPRA Conference. Each opportunity allowed team members to highlight the proven strategies and best practices that are driving OCSD's momentum.

Presentations focused on how strategic communication strengthens stakeholder engagement, builds trust, supports academic and operational success, and amplifies the district's mission. Our team shared real-world examples of OCSD's communication framework—from crisis response and family engagement to brand storytelling, community partnerships, and internal communication systems that keep staff connected and informed.

These engagements also reinforced OCSD's growing reputation as a statewide leader in transparent, transformative communication. By showcasing our district's innovative practices, our team helped other districts explore new ways to connect, collaborate, and communicate with purpose.



Recognitions & Appointments

The Orangeburg County School District Communications Team achieved significant recognition this year, earning several prestigious awards. Highlights include honors from the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) Golden Achievement Award and multiple awards from the South Carolina Chapter of NSPRA (SCNSPRA).



Celebrating New and Improved Learning Spaces

Orangeburg County School District recently marked the completion of several new and upgraded learning spaces designed to benefit students and staff for years to come. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held for East Lake Elementary School, as well as the STEM Lab and Music Production Studio at William J. Clark Middle School.

Thanks to a \$40 million allocation from the State Department of Education, the district also celebrated its final groundbreaking as part of the School Improvements of Pride campaign at Robert E. Howard Elementary School.



Legacy Walk

Orangeburg County School District invited media, alumni, community members, and former staff to a final walkthrough of Robert E. Howard Middle School before demolition began. Titled “Howard’s Last Stroll: A Farewell Walk Through History,” the event allowed attendees to walk the halls, share memories, and celebrate the school’s lasting impact on the community. The building will be replaced with the new Robert E. Howard Elementary School, marking the end of an era for a school that educated generations of students and served as a community cornerstone.

Attendees had the opportunity to reflect on the school’s legacy one last time before construction began on the new facility.



Relaunching District-Wide Newsletters

This year, Orangeburg County School District relaunched its internal newsletter, One Voice, and its external newsletter, The Circle, to keep staff, families, and the community informed about district news and initiatives.

One Voice serves as an internal communication tool to provide updates to employees on programs, events, and district-wide developments. The Circle reaches the broader community, highlighting student achievements, school accomplishments, and opportunities to engage with OCSD.

By revitalizing these newsletters, the district ensures that everyone stays up to date on the latest happenings, fostering stronger connections and transparency across the district and community.



Snack Packs and Smiles: Councilman Hawkins Gives Back to Whittaker Students!



Whittaker Elementary was honored to welcome City Councilman Matt Jordan Hawkins as Principal for a Day last week! His visit was part of Orangeburg County School District's district-wide Principal for a Day initiative, which invited community leaders to step into the role of principal and gain first-hand insight into the important work school leaders do each day.

During his time at Whittaker, Councilman Hawkins was inspired to take his experience a step further—coordinating a special initiative to provide snack pack bags for Whittaker students! Thanks to his leadership, students enjoyed this thoughtful treat on Monday.

A huge thank you goes out to Councilman Hawkins for his commitment to our Whittaker and for continuing to support our school community beyond his day as principal. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Williams & Williams Law Firm for sponsoring this generous initiative.



BBHS Among 50 Schools Chosen for Carolina Panthers' Spirit Rocks Competition



Bethune Bowman High School is proud to announce that it has been selected as one of only 50 schools nationwide to participate in the Panthers Spirit Rocks design competition, sponsored by the Carolina Panthers and Lowe's. The school's middle and high school arts teacher and Bethune Bowman alumna, Caroline Robinson, recognized the opportunity to take students and submitted the design.

The contest celebrates the start of the Panthers season by encouraging students to showcase their spirit on their school rocks.

"When I opened the email about the competition, I thought, 'This is a good opportunity,'" said Robinson. "My students were excited and eager to help. The competition was immediate; they knew the odds for the school, and they jumped in."

Because Bethune Bowman does not have a large school rock like some campuses, Robinson purchased large coasters from Lowe's and worked with her students to bring the design to life using white chalkboard. She created a spirit coaster featuring a diverse crowd of supporters cheering beneath the Panthers logo and rallying cry, "Keep Pounding, Robinson!" Robinson ultimately recognized Bethune Bowman's tremendous talent and gave each student a rock, ensuring the design was reflected throughout.

The painted coasters, along with contributions from Williams students, are currently on display in the cafeteria. Photos of the design and of Robinson with her students are available upon request.

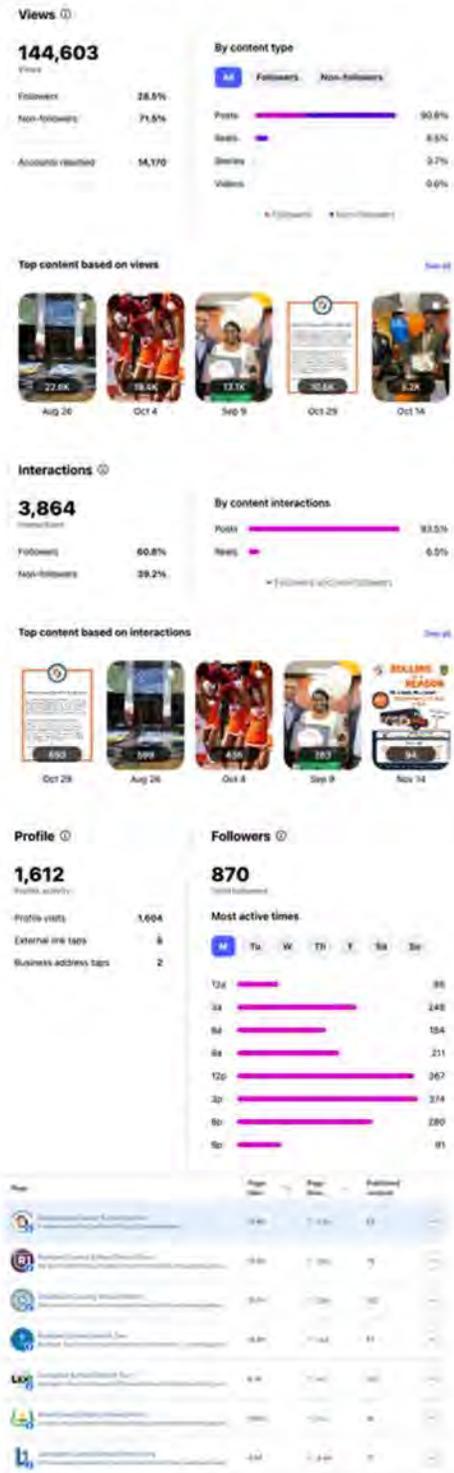
Young Entrepreneurs at the Black Expo Columbia

For the third year in a row, Orangeburg County School District supported Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School students by providing business cards and retractable banners to help them promote their small businesses at the renowned Black Expo in Columbia, SC. Equipped with these professional resources, students demonstrated impressive entrepreneurial skills, offering custom candles, handcrafted jewelry, curated kits, trendy t-shirts, and fresh produce. Their creativity and dedication drew attention and admiration from Expo attendees, highlighting the talent and innovation of OCSD students.



Social Media

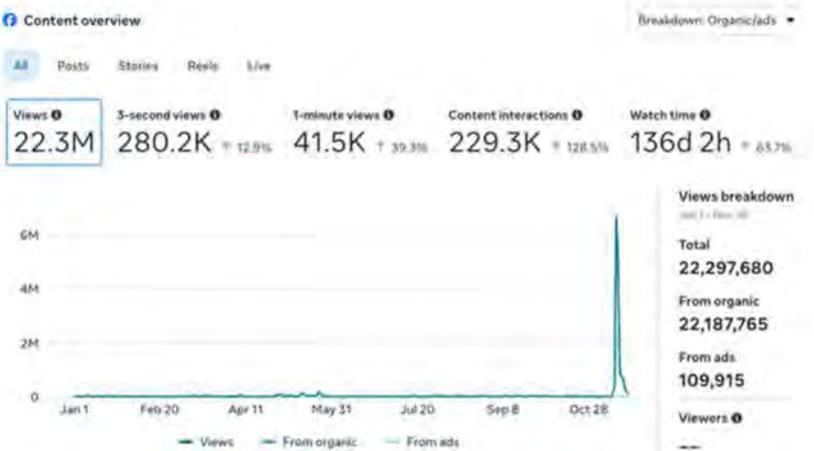
Orangeburg County School District experienced remarkable digital growth over the past year, with engagement soaring across both Facebook and Instagram. This expansion reflects the community's increasing interest in district updates, student achievements, and school events.



On Facebook, OCSD reached 588.2K accounts last year, with 108.6K interactions. This year, the district's content reached an impressive 22.3 million views, marking exponential growth. Interactions climbed to 229.3K, a 128.5% increase, while the follower count grew by 6.7K, representing 208.4% growth.

Instagram also saw significant gains. The platform recorded 144.6K views, up from last year's reach of 9,793 accounts. Interactions rose to 3,864, up from 753 the previous year. While profile visits saw a slight decrease from 1,882 to 1,612, overall engagement and reach demonstrated substantial improvement.

Notably, for the second year in a row, Orangeburg County School District outpaced neighboring Midlands districts in engagement performance when comparing page likes minus dislikes on Facebook. This continued growth highlights OCSD's strong connection with its community and the impact of its storytelling across digital platforms.



Smore for District

Orangeburg County School District has implemented Smore at both the district and school levels to create engaging and impactful newsletters. This tool allows staff to design visually appealing communications that effectively share news, updates, and important information with students, families, and the community, enhancing transparency and connection across OCSD.



Canva for District

OCSD's Technology Department launched an initiative to provide Canva as a free resource for both staff and students. This platform enables educators and learners to design high-quality materials for a variety of educational purposes, including lesson plans, presentations, posters, and other creative projects. By offering Canva district-wide, OCSD has enhanced the ability of staff and students to bring their ideas to life with creativity and ease.



Swank Streaming

Technology Department secured Swank K-12 Streaming for the district, giving staff and students access to a wide selection of educational films without licensing concerns. This resource allows teachers to incorporate movies into classroom instruction to support curriculum goals, enhance learning, and engage students, all while ensuring full compliance with copyright regulations.



Technology

Updated Network Security Protocols & Cybersecurity Enhancements

Technology staff significantly strengthened the district's cybersecurity posture this year through major infrastructure upgrades and expanded security protocols. The district was selected to participate in the Federal Communications Commission's Cybersecurity Pilot Program, a national initiative designed to help K-12 schools implement advanced, next-generation cybersecurity tools and defenses. Through this award, OCS D received funding to procure critical hardware and software that will further protect our network, data, and instructional systems. In addition, the Technology Department successfully implemented Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) districtwide, ensuring that all users now authenticate using a more secure and modern method when accessing district systems. These advancements represent our ongoing commitment to safeguarding student and staff information while maintaining secure, reliable access to digital learning resources.

Teacher Laptop Deployment

The Technology Department completed a districtwide deployment of new teacher laptops to ensure educators have fast, reliable devices that support modern instructional tools. This deployment reflects the district's commitment to providing teachers with the technology needed to deliver high-quality, engaging instruction.



Technology

Triton Vape Sensor Installation

To support safer learning environments, OCSD installed Triton vape detection sensors across all middle and high schools. These smart sensors

identify vaping, smoke, and air-quality abnormalities in restrooms and other designated areas, immediately alerting administrators through real-time notifications. The system also detects sound anomalies, such as aggressive behavior, providing an added layer of protection for students. This was a collaborative effort between the Technology Department and Student Services Department, ensuring both technical reliability and strong alignment with student safety initiatives. Together, the teams coordinated deployment, network integration, and monitoring configurations to support a healthier and more secure environment across all secondary campuses. This initiative strengthens the district's commitment to promoting student health, safety, and well-being.



Records Management & Archiving

OCSD expanded the use of the PaperVision Electronic Records System to strengthen long-term retention and management of both student and staff records. Through this initiative, departments began digitizing and scanning paper files, converting them into secure, easily searchable electronic documents. This transition enhances organizational efficiency by reducing manual storage needs, improving retrieval times, and ensuring records remain protected and compliant with state and federal retention requirements. Documents can be accessed through a centralized, secure platform designed to streamline workflows and improve accuracy. This advancement reinforces the district's commitment to modernizing operations and supporting efficient, reliable records management practices.

Policy, Governance & Compliance

The Technology Department led a full revision of Board Policy IJNDB – Acceptable Use of Technology Resources to ensure alignment with current practices and emerging technologies. The updated policy now includes comprehensive coverage for all user groups, including staff, students, contractors, vendors, and community partners who access district systems or networks. Enhancements also introduce clear guidelines for artificial intelligence (AI) use, data protection expectations, and responsible digital citizenship across the district. The revision strengthens safeguards around privacy, cybersecurity, and proper use of technology while ensuring the policy reflects modern instructional and operational environments. These updates affirm the district's commitment to strong governance, responsible technology use, and compliance with evolving digital standards.

Curriculum & Instruction Update



Curriculum & Instruction Highlights

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

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Create and implement a comprehensive MTSS plan to address the needs of all students.	June 2022/August 2022	✓	Hired MTSS Specialist/Coordinators July 2025
Create and implement a comprehensive professional development plan to increase the rigor of the curriculum.	June 2022/August 2022	✓	Creation of more PD Sessions on PD Days
Institute grade band meetings to refine the curriculum and develop an addendum that provides resources for standards not addressed.	June 2022/August 2022	✓	School Improvement Plans
Create a comprehensive K-12 assessment plan that delineates the purpose of assessments and how to use the data to inform instruction	June 2022/August 2022	✓	Benchmark Testing & Data Tracking
Implement student led parent-student conferences that promote self-efficacy and ownership of the learning.	First Report Card/September 2023		At some schools... currently monitoring and checking in with principals.
Institute vertical planning teams to develop common language between teachers and across content areas.	June 2022/August 2022		Streamlining the process now and have a districtwide process.
Implement a writing conference to showcase student writing and to promote the attainment of the ELA writing standards.	August 2023/March 2024	Spring 2026	Competition blended with a conference for Students (Spring 2026)
Implement a Math-fest to allow students to demonstrate the mastery of math standards and skills.	August 2023/March 2024		Needs Work
Implement a district-wide debate team to allow students the opportunity to develop public speaking, critical thinking, and persuasive argument skills.	August 2024/March 2025	Upcoming Year	

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Implement a district-wide spelling bee to allow students to gain competence in vocabulary acquisition including learning the definitions, pronunciations, and roots of words.	August 2023/March 2024	✓	OCSD Spelling Bee
Implement a trivia team- quiz bowl that will allow students to enhance and demonstrate their knowledge of multiple content areas.	August 2024/March 2025	✓	Lake Marion High School HKT has Quiz bowl teams
Implement school-wide book clubs to promote a love of reading and deepen students' comprehension of literature.	August 2023/March 2024		Implemented at some schools already and hosted by librarians.
Implement a tech-club to allow students to explore technology and to expose them to careers in technology.	August 2024/March 2025	✓	Esports Labs Drone and Aviation STEM LAB Music Production Studio
Implement a Science and Innovation Fair that requires students to demonstrate mastery of the science standards.	August 2022/March 2023		USC Regional SCIENCE Fair Grade 4+ No district wide science fair as of yet.
Integrate the arts into other core content areas to show the cross-curricular connections and address multiple intelligences of our students.	June 2022/September 2022	✓	Magnet & STEAM Curriculum
Utilize Artists-in-Residence from the South Carolina Arts Commission to supplement arts offerings in the district.	January 2022/February 2022	Summer 2026	Governor's school artist in residence with the Summer Arts Academy
Provide content-specific professional development throughout the school year to deepen teachers' understanding of the content.	June 2022/August 2022	✓	PD Sessions
Implement a district art gallery to showcase student and teacher artwork.	August 2023/May 2024	✓	OCSD Arts Exhibition at Orangeburg Arts Center
Student will participate in arts competitions such as Poetry Out Loud.	August 2023/May 2024	✓	SC & County Fairs, EHS Bird Conservation Competition
Develop an instructional framework	Dec 2024	✓	Full implementation Fall 2025

Instructional Framework

The instructional framework shows the district's vision for teaching and learning. When the instructional vision of the district is clear, it will provide a robust opportunity for its beliefs to drive it. Outlined with concrete actions for students, teachers, leaders and families, the instructional framework can provide equitable access to grade-level instruction for all students. The core of a district's instructional framework is a shared understanding and commitment to educational goals and principles that guide instruction and learning within a district. It provides all leaders and educators with a shared understanding and language of what the district is trying to achieve academically and a plan for how to get there.

The Instructional Framework Manual is your go-to guide for planning, teaching, and supporting student learning across Orangeburg County School District. It's designed to help everyone—teachers, coaches, leaders, and support staff—stay on the same page when it comes to what great teaching looks like in every classroom.

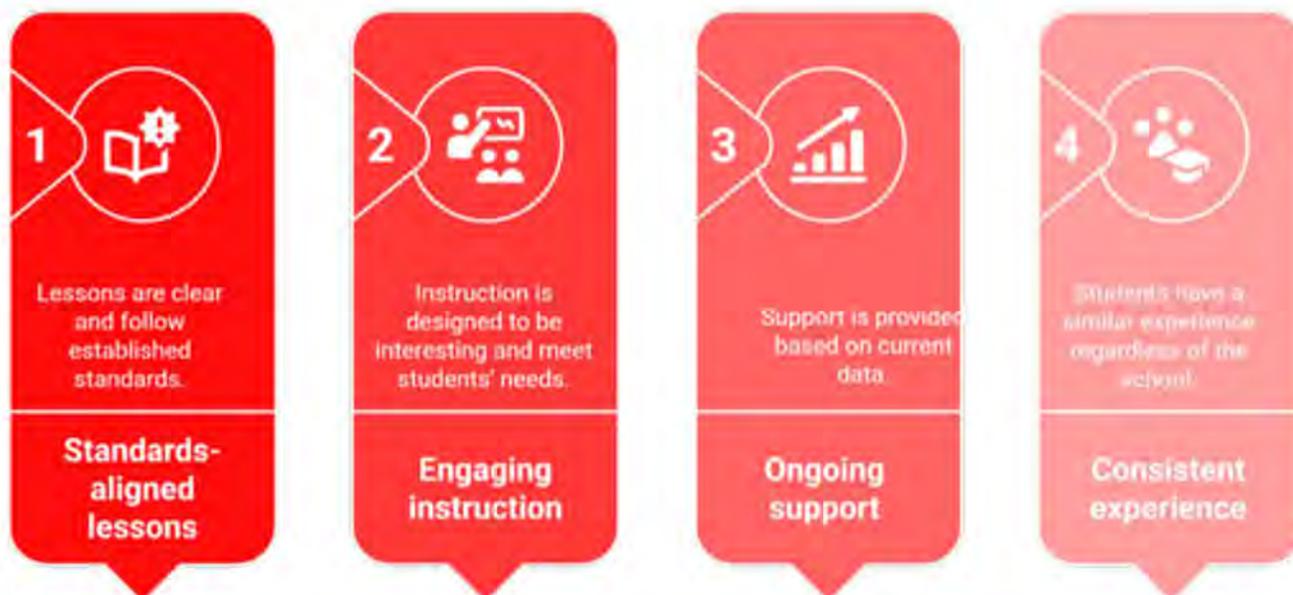
This document helps answer questions like:

- What information should I teach?
- How do I make sure all students are learning?
- What do I do when they aren't?
- How do we use data to plan smarter?
- How does this connect to our PLC work, MTSS, or district goals?

At its core, the framework is about making sure every student gets:

- Clear, standards-aligned lessons
- Engaging instruction that meets them where they are
- Ongoing support based on real-time data
- A consistent experience, no matter what school they attend

When we all use this framework, we speak a shared instructional language—and that helps us teach better, collaborate more effectively, and ensure success for every child in Orangeburg County.



2025 SC School Report Cards

Under the state's accountability system, each elementary, middle, and high school receives an overall rating on a 100-point scale, using the categories Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, and Unsatisfactory. Schools also earn ratings across multiple indicators, including academic achievement, college and career readiness, graduation rate, and other measures of student success.

This year's results show meaningful growth across Orangeburg County. Superintendent Dr. Shawn D. Foster shared his pride in the district's continued momentum, noting that 61 percent of OCSD schools earned an overall rating of Average or above, up from 48 percent in 2022.

School Name	School Type	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating
Bethune-Bowman Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Below Average	Below Average
Brookdale Elementary	E	Below Average	Good	Good	Average
Dover Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Excellent	Average
Edisto Elementary	E	Average	Good	Average	Average
Ellore Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Average	Good	Average
Holly Hill Elementary	E	Good	Average	Average	Below Average
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Below Average	Average
Lockett Elementary	E	Good	Excellent	Good	Good
Marshall Elementary	E	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average
Mellichamp Elementary	E	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Average	Below Average
Sheridan Elementary	E	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Average
St. James-Gaillard Elementary	E	Average	Average	Good	Good
Vance-Providence Elementary	E	Good	Below Average	Average	Average
Whittaker Elementary	E	Average	Excellent	Average	Average

Excellent Below Average
 Good Unsatisfactory
 Average

Student Achievement

School Name	School Type	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High	M	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Below Average
Branchville High	M	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
Carver-Edisto Middle	M	Average	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High	M	Unsatisfactory	Average	Below Average	Average
Lake Marion Middle	M	N/A	N/A	N/A	Below Average
North Middle/High	M	Below Average	Average	Average	Good
Robert E. Howard Middle	M	Average	Average	Average	Below Average
William J. Clark Middle	M	Average	Average	Average	Below Average

School Name	School Type	2022	2023	2024	2025
		Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating	Overall Rating
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High	H	Average	Average	Average	Average
Branchville High	H	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Edisto High	H	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Average	Average
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High	H	Average	Average	Average	Average
Lake Marion High	H	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Below Average
North Middle/High	H	Unsatisfactory	Below Average	Excellent	Excellent
Orangeburg Wilkinson High	H	Below Average	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Below Average

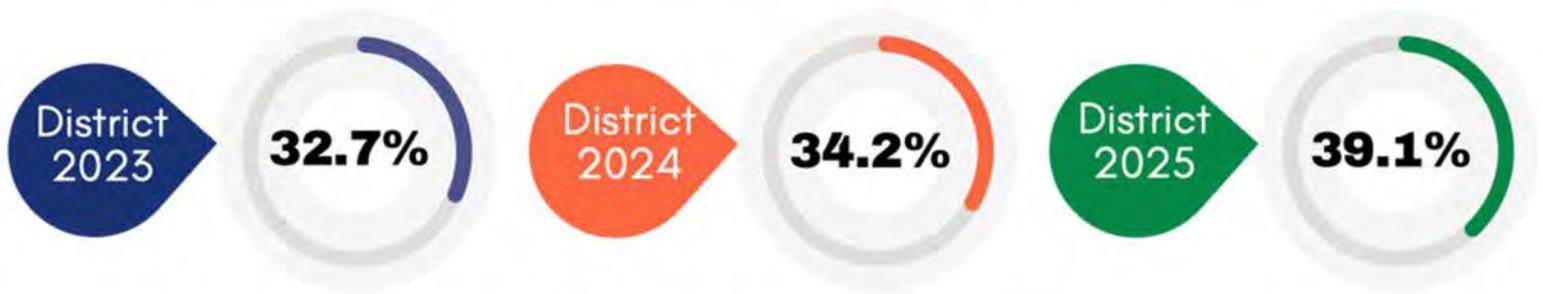
Excellent Below Average
 Good Unsatisfactory
 Average

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



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

SCREADY-Science

% of students Met or Exceeding



EOCEP Biology

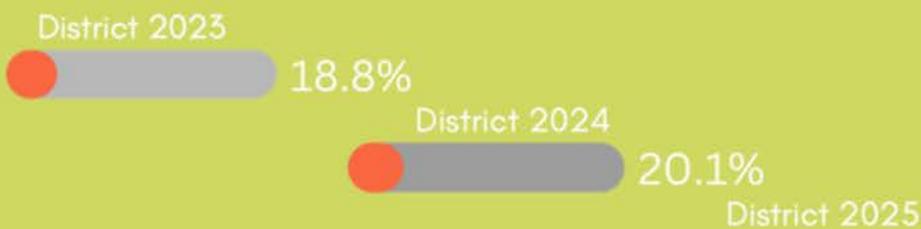
% of students scoring C or Higher



Passing D
or Higher
31.8%

EOCEP US History

% of students scoring C or Higher



Passing D
or Higher
30.7%

EOCEP Data Breakdown

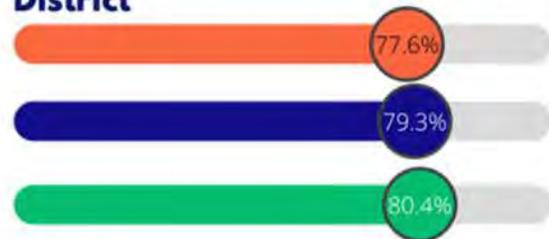
College & Career Readiness- Disabled % of Students who are College or Career Ready

School	Not CCR		CCR		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Bethune-Bowman Middle/High	2	16.7%	10	83.3%	12	100.00%
Branchville High	1	16.7%	5	83.3%	6	100.00%
Edisto High	10	41.7%	14	58.3%	24	100.00%
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High	1	25.0%	3	75.0%	4	100.00%
Lake Marion High School	19	65.5%	10	34.5%	29	100.00%
North Middle/High		0.0%	4	100.0%	4	100.00%
Orangeburg Wilkinson High	27	62.8%	16	37.2%	43	100.00%
District	60	49.2%	62	50.8%	122	100.00%

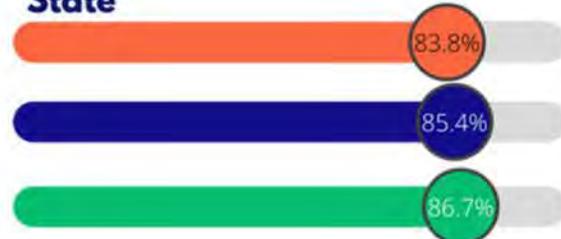
Student Data

Graduation Rate

District



State



College & Career Readiness % of Students who are College or Career Ready

District

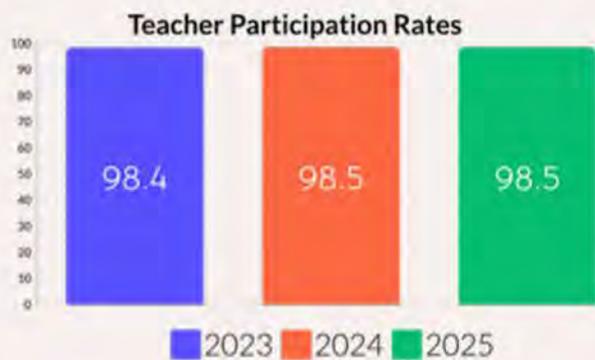


State



Student Data

School Climate



School Climate

These points are based on a 10 pt. scale

Measure	District 2023	District 2024	District 2025
Overall Perceptions of School Climate	6.19	6.56	6.10
Teacher Perceptions of Instructional Focus	7.43	7.70	7.03
Teacher Perceptions of Working Conditions	7.43	7.99	7.63
Teacher Perceptions of Safety	7.45	7.82	7.77
Student Perceptions of Social-Physical Environment	3.04	3.33	2.51
Student Perceptions of Safety	5.60	5.97	5.54

OCSD Spelling Bee

Now in its second year, the District Spelling Bee brings together school-level champions from across Orangeburg County School District to compete for the top district title. After earning victory at their individual schools, these students advanced to represent their classmates and communities on a districtwide stage.

This year's top honors went to Dashon Hannon from Robert E. Howard Middle, who earned first place. Allie Fanning from Branchville Middle/High secured second place, and Thomas Kent from Holly Hill Elementary School achieved third place. Their outstanding performances highlighted not only their individual hard work but also the support of advisors, teachers and families who encouraged them throughout their journey.

The District Spelling Bee continues to be a celebration of learning, literacy, and student achievement. We are incredibly proud of every participant for their preparation, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm for language.



OCSD Spelling Bee



Honoring Academic Excellence

In a proud celebration of achievement, OCSD hosted its annual Honors and Awards Banquet, recognizing 63 students who earned one or more perfect scores on the SC READY and End-of-Course (EOCEP) assessments. Alongside these remarkable scholars, 32 teachers were acknowledged for their role in cultivating excellence in their classrooms.



The District also recognized Patrick Hubbard for achieving perfect scores on all of his EOCEP tests throughout his high school journey.



Senior Scholar Banquet

Orangeburg County School District honored 67 exceptional Senior Scholars at the 2025 Senior Scholars Banquet on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at the Orangeburg County Convention Center. The event began at 5:30 p.m. and celebrated the academic achievements and bright futures of the district's top graduating seniors.



Senior Scholar Banquet

The annual banquet recognized students from across the district for outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, and extracurricular involvement. This year, 15 scholars graduated as part of the inaugural cohort of the Orangeburg Advanced College, each earning at least one associate degree. In addition, four students were honored for earning the rare distinction of graduating with two associate degrees from Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College.



Community Engagement



The Annual Spring and Fall Community and Parent Engagement Summit series brought families, educators, and community partners together in a celebration of collaboration and shared purpose. This cross departmental event was spearheaded by the Federal Programs and Family Engagement teams, whose leadership and coordination ensured that each summit created meaningful opportunities for connection and growth.

In the spring, the summit was hosted at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School and was combined with the district's International Festival, themed "One World. One Team." In the fall, the district held the event at the Prince of Orange Mall with a carnival and fair theme that welcomed families from across the county.

Through open dialogue and shared learning experiences, participants left each summit feeling empowered to continue working hand in hand to support student success across Orangeburg County School District.

National ESEA Distinguished School



North Middle High School is one of up to 100 schools nationwide selected for exceptional student achievement in 2025. This prestigious recognition honors schools that demonstrate extraordinary academic performance, significant growth, and a strong commitment to ensuring all students succeed.

The school is recognized in Category 1: Exceptional Student Performance and Academic Growth, following its remarkable 24-point increase on the South Carolina School Report Card rating from 2023 to 2025—one of the most impressive improvements in the state. The National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program, established in 1996, highlights outstanding academic success in federally funded schools. The program honors schools in three categories: exceptional student performance and growth, closing achievement gaps, and excellence in serving special student populations.

North Middle High School will be honored at the 2026 National ESEA Conference in Denver, Colorado, as well as at the South Carolina Association of Title I Administrators Conference in Myrtle Beach in October 2026.

Early Childhood & Elementary Education

Kindergarten Readiness Above the State Average

OCSD continues to make strides in school readiness. Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) data show that a higher percentage of OCSD students demonstrate readiness compared to the state average, reflecting the district's emphasis on early intervention and family engagement.

School	2021 Demonstrating Readiness		2022 Demonstrating Readiness		2023 Demonstrating Readiness		2024 Demonstrating Readiness		2025 Demonstrating Readiness	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Bethune-Bowman Elementary	4	13.79%	5	14.29%	3	9.09%	6	16.67%	13	35.14%
Brookdale Elementary	2	7.14%	4	13.33%	12	37.50%	14	45.16%	11	37.93%
Dover Elementary	8	19.51%	10	28.57%	19	46.34%	11	36.67%	9	31.03%
Edisto Primary	11	8.94%	33	24.81%	40	29.63%	76	45.51%	45	29.61%
Eiloree Elementary	11	31.43%	13	37.14%	17	51.52%	17	40.48%	17	41.46%
Holly Hill Elementary	15	30.61%	11	26.19%	18	39.13%	20	35.71%	16	30.77%
Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary	7	20.00%	3	10.71%	12	35.29%	9	36.00%	14	48.28%
Lockett Elementary	10	28.57%	10	47.62%	21	70.00%	11	44.00%	13	39.39%
Marshall Elementary	17	16.67%	15	18.75%	27	31.40%	23	24.73%	33	42.31%
Sheridan Elementary	16	25.00%	16	26.67%	31	43.06%	22	37.93%	30	44.78%
St. James-Gaillard Elementary	2	6.90%	9	31.03%	12	35.29%	11	26.19%	14	63.64%
Vance-Providence Elementary	6	21.43%	6	21.43%	3	12.50%	9	30.00%	16	69.57%
Whittaker Elementary	13	20.97%	17	34.69%	35	52.24%	28	47.46%	31	57.41%
Grand Total	132	18.86%	165	25.04%	269	37.78%	257	37.03%	262	40.56%



Secondary Education

Celebrating College & Career Readiness

The 2025 Senior Acceptance Day, part of the district's Hope Initiative, stood as a powerful reminder of what's possible when preparation meets opportunity. This celebratory event honored seniors who earned acceptance into college, all through a provisional partnerships with Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

Families, staff, and community members joined in recognizing the determination and hard work that opened doors to bright futures.



Secondary Education

Summer Graduation

This summer, OCSD celebrated its Summer Graduates, a group of 16 scholars who demonstrated resilience, commitment, and determination in achieving their diploma goals. Each graduate represents the district's mission of ensuring that every student is prepared for success in college, career, and life.



Summer School

OCSD's Summer School Program continued to provide critical opportunities for academic enrichment, credit recovery, and advancement. Students benefited from small group instruction, targeted interventions, and personalized learning experiences designed to help them thrive in the upcoming school year.



Claflin Writing Project with the Library of Congress

This teacher professional development program, titled “Teaching English Language Arts” with Library of Congress Primary Sources to 11th and 12th Graders in Orangeburg County, South Carolina, supports high school ELA teachers in using primary sources to deepen instruction. American Literature teachers are working with OCSD selected titles *The Crucible* and *The Great Gatsby*, while British Literature teachers are using *1984* and *Hamlet*. Professors of English at Claflin University provide creative writing activities and resources that align with the SC Department of Education 2023 ELA Standards, which teachers are integrating into their classrooms.

Coach, Teach, Write

The American Institutes for Research and the National Writing Project are funded by a federal Education Innovation and Research grant to support high-quality writing instruction. This initiative is designed for middle school ELA teachers across the country. The program focuses on Grades 7 and 8 for the 2025–26 school year, allowing AIR researchers to evaluate its impact on student writing. Professional development is delivered through National Writing Project coaches at Clemson University, who provide writing strategies and resources aligned with OCSD’s ELA curriculum and the SC Department of Education 2023 ELA Standards. OCSD is the only district in South Carolina selected to participate.

National Read 180 Award Winners

Orangeburg County School District is proud to honor three exceptional members of our school community who have been named 2025 National Read 180 Award Winners. This national recognition celebrates students and educators who demonstrate remarkable commitment to



literacy growth, resilience, and academic achievement. This year’s honorees represent the dedication and hard work taking place across our district. Ansley Brunson, a sixth grader at Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle School, has shown impressive progress and a strong commitment to improving her reading skills. Ja’Keill Brown, a sixth grader at William J. Clark Middle School, has demonstrated significant growth and perseverance as he continues to advance in his reading journey. Ms. Tara Prezzy, an educator at Lake Marion Middle School, is recognized for her exceptional dedication to supporting students through the Read 180 program and for creating a learning environment where students feel encouraged and motivated to excel.

OCSD Dominates at USC Region II Science and Engineering Fair

On March 7, 2025, more than 100 elementary and middle school students from OCSD showcased their innovative ideas at the USC Region II Science and Engineering Fair in Columbia, SC. Projects ranged from environmental science and robotics to biology and engineering design, demonstrating students' creativity and critical thinking.

In a historic district achievement, every elementary participant from OCSD placed in the top three tiers of their categories (earning either 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place honors) while 14 middle school projects also earned top recognitions.

This unprecedented success highlights the district's growing emphasis on STEM education and hands-on scientific inquiry. The fair not only celebrated academic excellence but also inspired young scientists to continue exploring their curiosity and shaping a future grounded in innovation.



Fine Arts

District Honor Band

OCSD hosted its District Honor Band featuring the county's finest middle and high school musicians. After an intensive two-day clinic led by directors from across the district, students performed a culminating concert at Claflin University's Daniel C. Moss Auditorium. Their performance reflected both artistic mastery and the district's commitment to excellence in music education.



District Honor Choir

The OCSD Honor Choir united exceptional vocalists from across the district for a collaborative two-day clinic and final performance at South Carolina State University's Barbara Vaughn Recital Hall. Under the direction of district choral educators, students refined their vocal technique and celebrated the unifying power of music.



Fine Arts

Summer Arts Academy

Creativity took center stage at the OCSD Summer Arts Academy, where students explored music, dance, theatre, and visual arts. Through hands-on workshops and collaborative projects, participants developed new artistic skills and created an original student-written production, "Beyond." The performance served as a testament to the imagination, confidence, and teamwork nurtured through arts education.



Fine Arts

Concert Performance Assessment (CPA)

At the South Carolina Concert Performance Assessment, OCSD ensembles once again showcased musical excellence.

- The High School Honor Band earned an Excellent rating.
- The Middle School Honor Band received a Superior with Distinction rating—demonstrating both musical precision and artistic passion.
- The REHMS Treble Chorale CPA participated in the South Carolina Music Educators Association Choral Performance Assessment. The ensemble delivered an outstanding performance and earned an Excellent rating.



Leadership Clinic

This summer, OCSD hosted its annual Band Leadership Clinic at Hunter-Kinard-Tyler High School. The event welcomed student musicians from across the state for workshops focused on leadership, musicianship, and collaboration.



Outstanding Performance Award

In a history-making moment, the combined band programs of North Middle High and Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle High earned the South Carolina Band Directors Association's (SCBDA) Outstanding Performance Award—the highest recognition presented to any band program in the state. This prestigious honor reflects the ensemble's consistent excellence across multiple SCBDA events, from marching championships to concert performance assessments.

Expanding Arts Access

The district continues to expand access to fine arts education with the establishment of four piano labs across OCSD schools.

Fine Arts

Expanding Arts Access

The district continues to expand access to fine arts education with the establishment of four piano labs across OCSD schools.



Artistic Achievements and Community Impact

OCSD artists made their mark on both local and state stages:

- William J. Clark Middle School earned Best in Show at the 10th Annual Read Across America Art Contest, along with several top placements.
- OCSD students earned top awards at the South Carolina State Fair and Orangeburg County Fair.
- Edisto Elementary School students captured multiple honors at the BETA State Convention, including 1st Place in Performing Arts Dance and Cake Decorating, 2nd Place in Apparel Design and Drawing, and 5th Place in Quilling.

Community Mural Projects

In partnership with muralists Ija Monet and Herman Keith, OCSD students helped create two vibrant community murals in downtown Orangeburg as part of the Walls That Speak project.



Fine Arts

Celebrating Student Creativity

OCSD has celebrated student creativity with two annual initiatives:

- The Holiday Card Competition invited students to submit original designs, with the top six featured in district holiday greetings.
- The Art Gallery Open House brought families and community members together to view student artwork, celebrating creativity across grade levels and schools.



Gifted & Talented

AgTech Magnet at Edisto Elementary School joined the district's magnet programs, offering 4th and 5th grade students specialized instruction in modern agriculture. The program focuses on advanced farming techniques, biotechnology, robotics and automation, data analysis, hands-on experience, sustainability practices, and career preparation. By integrating technology with agricultural education, students are prepared for diverse careers in agriculture, ranging from agronomy and farm management to agricultural engineering and environmental science. The program aims to foster innovation and adaptability, empowering students to address the challenges of modern agriculture through technology.

Broadcast Studios at Carver-Edisto Middle and Edisto High School continue the Communication Arts pathway through Grade 12. This pathway begins with Edisto Elementary's Broadcasting, Audiovisual, and Journalism Academy (BAJA) for grades 3-5, continues through Carver-Edisto Middle School's Magnet Academy for Media and Broadcasting Arts (MAMBA) in grades 6-8, and culminates with Edisto High School's Journalism and Multimedia Arts Magnet for grades 9-12. This seamless progression provides students with hands-on experience, technical skills, and career readiness in the fields of media, broadcasting, and communication arts.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Music Meets Innovation

In a groundbreaking celebration of creativity and technology, William J. Clark Middle School unveiled its first-ever Music Production Recording Studio and newly renovated STEM Lab—two dynamic spaces designed to inspire the next generation of engineers, producers, and creators.

These innovative learning environments were made possible through a \$100,000 contribution from Boeing, a valued partner in education and workforce development.

The Beats Lab, as students affectionately call it, gives young artists the tools to compose, mix, and record original music while learning about production, sound design, and collaboration. The studio's Sound Engineer and Instructor, JaiDon Powell, a proud William J. Clark alumnus, called his return to the school “a full-circle moment” — a testament to the power of education and mentorship.

The revitalized STEM Lab, led by Instructor Ronald Beck, now features cutting-edge equipment that supports hands-on exploration in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Beck described the lab as a “fun and empowering environment” where students learn through creativity, curiosity, and experimentation.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

2025 Career Signing Day

Orangeburg County School District hosted a Signing Day ceremony to celebrate a distinguished group of students who secured highly competitive internships and apprenticeships for Summer 2025. The event honored students from Bethune-Bowman Middle/High School (BBMHS), Branchville High School (BHS), Edisto High School (EHS), and Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School (OWHS) as they officially signed with industry partners for career-advancing opportunities.



Three students from the Cope Area Career Center and two students from the Orangeburg Career and Technology Center earned internships with Boeing, one of the world's leading aerospace manufacturers. Boeing interns include Cory Lightfoot, Kaliehl McKenzie, and Alexandra Young of Edisto High School; Will Pendarvis of Branchville High School; Jayden Bookard of Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School; and Alexandra De La Cruz of Bethune-Bowman Middle/High School.

Five additional students secured summer internships with MUSC Orangeburg. Through this opportunity, they explored careers in patient care, public health, and medical operations. MUSC interns include Kamara Chavis, Alyssa Goodwin, Toi Rivers, and Alana Turner of Edisto High School, and Zamaria Young of Branchville High School.

Other honorees included Joseph Morris of Edisto High School, who interned with the South Carolina Department of Education's Orangeburg Bus Shop, gaining valuable experience in transportation services and fleet operations. Bristol Gray of Edisto High School will represent OCSD nationally as a SkillsUSA entrepreneurship competitor.

The 2025 Signing Day ceremony reflects OCSD's continued commitment to strengthening career and technical education through meaningful partnerships, hands-on learning, and opportunities that propel students toward successful futures.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)



Manufacturing the Future

The 2025 Boeing Summer Manufacturing Student Development Program (SDP) gave OCSD students the chance to experience the world of advanced manufacturing firsthand.

Representing The Orangeburg Technology Center and The Cope Area Career Center, OCSD participants spent the summer:

- Building technical and manufacturing skills,
- Strengthening communication and teamwork,
- Serving as training assistants and floor coaches,
- Shadowing Boeing professionals, and
- Acting as liaisons to the company's Workforce Development team.

Through this paid learning experience, students gained real-world insights and built lasting professional connections. OCSD celebrates these future leaders who continue to represent the district with excellence, curiosity, and a drive to learn.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Cope Area Career Center Launched New Nail Technology Program After Final State Board Approval

Orangeburg County School District's Cope Area Career Center proudly announced the launch of its Nail Technology Program after successfully completing its final State Board inspection. This major milestone meant students were able to graduate high school with the opportunity to earn their South Carolina Nail Technician License, preparing them for rewarding careers in the rapidly growing beauty industry.

The Nail Tech program expanded Cope's already robust career pathways, which included Cosmetology, Welding, Health Science, and Automotive Technology. Together, these programs provided students with hands-on learning experiences that will prepare them for immediate employment or continued education after graduation.



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Rolling for a Reason Launched with a Successful First Event

The Orangeburg County School District kicked off its Rolling for a Reason initiative with a successful first event on November 18 at the Orangeburg Technology Center. The district provided free meals to students and families experiencing food insecurity, bringing the community together for an evening of support and connection.

The Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office assisted by ensuring safety, directing traffic, and engaging positively with families throughout the event.

Rolling for a Reason also highlighted the talent within OCSD's Career and Technical Education programs. Students from the Orangeburg Technology Center's Culinary Arts program prepared the meals served from the district's state-of-the-art food truck, gaining valuable hands-on experience while serving their community.

Families enjoyed free cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and chips, and the strong turnout made the launch an encouraging start to the initiative.

Service Dates and Locations

- November 18, 2025 – Orangeburg Technology Center (Central Orangeburg)
- December 11, 2025 – Edisto High School (West Orangeburg)
- December 16, 2025 – Neeses Piggly Wiggly (West Orangeburg)
- December 18, 2025 – Santee Convention Center (East Orangeburg)



Making History at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Conference

Orangeburg County School District made state history at the 2025 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, where a team of middle school students became the first from South Carolina to compete at the national level and win gold. Representing Orangeburg Technology Center and Clark Middle School, Duane Butler, Aden Foster, and Malachi Jean earned first place in the prestigious Chapter Display competition with a three-dimensional exhibit inspired by the theme Ignite Your Potential. Guided by advisor Tracey Scoville, the team created a vibrant, career-themed cake with glowing electronic candles and an interactive QR code. Judges praised their creativity, presentation skills, and professional-level documentation.



The success continued with Orangeburg's high school Chapter Display team. Alexandra Villenda (Team Captain), Jayden Bookhart, Hayward Jean Jr., Elijah Glover, Nicholas Payne, Edwan Ortiz, and Jesus Rivera earned a Top 10 national ranking, showcasing exceptional teamwork, storytelling, and design skills. Their display drew significant attention and demonstrated the impact of OCSD's strong Career and Technical Education programming.



MULTILINGUAL LEARNER PROGRAM & TITLE III

Celebrating Linguistic Achievement and Cultural Pride

Orangeburg County School District proudly supports a diverse community where more than 18 languages are spoken. This year, the district celebrated remarkable accomplishments in multilingual education:

- 32 Multilingual Learners exited the ML Program by earning a 4.4 or higher on the ACCESS proficiency test.
- 16 juniors and seniors earned the South Carolina Seal of Biliteracy, recognizing their proficiency in multiple languages.
- The district hosted Family Nights at two regional locations, providing families with resources, language support, and opportunities to celebrate cultural diversity.

Notably, Bethune-Bowman High School celebrated its third Hispanic Valedictorian, reflecting the academic excellence and leadership that thrive within OCSD's multilingual community.

Professional development sessions were also provided for English Language Arts and Science teachers to support strategies for multilingual learners, ensuring that every student has access to equitable instruction and success.



EARLY COLLEGE & ORANGEBURG ADVANCE COLLEGE

Earning Diplomas and Degrees

The Orangeburg Advance College and Early College programs continued to redefine student success by offering high school students the opportunity to earn college credits and associate degrees before graduation.

This year, 15 high school students walked across the stage at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College (OCtech) to receive their associate degrees—a proud moment that underscores the district's commitment to preparing students for postsecondary achievement.

Superintendent Dr. Shawn Foster introduced the Advance College program as part of his vision to expand college access and readiness for all. His leadership continues to open doors for students, making higher education an attainable and affordable reality.



MTSS Implementation Highlights

Orangeburg County School District continues to advance its commitment to meeting the academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs of all students through a comprehensive, districtwide implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). Over the past year, OCSD has taken significant steps to build a strong, aligned framework that supports every learner.

A district MTSS manual was developed to guide consistent practices across schools, paired with extensive training for district and school leaders. Secondary teachers also participated in MTSS overview sessions to deepen their understanding of tiered supports in the classroom. To ensure strong leadership, each school established an MTSS Team and designated an MTSS School Lead responsible for coordinating efforts at the building level.

Every school completed the Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation, using results to develop targeted action plans designed to strengthen instruction, interventions, and support systems. The district MTSS Team has provided ongoing, individualized support to help schools execute these plans effectively.

Collaboration remains a cornerstone of OCSD's MTSS work. The MTSS team partnered closely with Student Services to enhance behavior and attendance interventions and support Social-Emotional Learning. They also worked with Content Coordinators to reinforce high-quality Tier I instruction for all students. Resources for progress monitoring and targeted interventions were distributed, along with training to ensure staff could apply them with fidelity.

To maintain momentum and build capacity, the district shares weekly and monthly MTSS tips, provides updates to departments, and presents regularly at monthly principal meetings.

Grants and Special Funding

OCSD Receives Over \$2 Million in Grant Funding to Support Student Learning and Family Resources

Orangeburg County School District received more than \$2 million in combined funding from Save the Children and the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, expanding instructional services, family support, and enrichment opportunities across the district.

Save the Children Grant: \$475,000 Awarded

Save the Children awarded \$475,000 to support six in-school and four extended-day instructional programs at Bethune-Bowman, East Lake, Ellore, and Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Elementary Schools. The funding provided:

- More than 12,500 donated books and essential supplies, including toys and toothbrushes, distributed to OCSD families and community partners such as the Roosevelt Garden Community Event, local STEM showcases, learning centers, churches, and health organizations.
- 675 Back-to-School Literacy Bags filled with books, annotation tools, reading logs, and bookmarks for all PreK-5th grade Save the Children students.
- Forty food security bags offering a week of healthy meals to early childhood families at Ellore and HKTE, along with weekly fresh fruit for all 21st Century summer program students.



Save the Children

Grants and Special Funding

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants

21st Century CCLC grants continue to extend the instructional day for several OCSD schools, giving students access to hands-on math, language arts, problem-solving, and cultural learning experiences.

Funding awards include:

- Marshall Elementary – \$600,002
- Supports the Marshall Elementary Future Leaders Academy focused on academic advancement and student inquiry.
- Brookdale, Edisto, and Sheridan – \$779,950
- Funds Project eSTEAM, a program emphasizing science, technology, engineering, agriculture, and math through activities such as cryptography, Juneteenth cultural studies, binary coding, plant life cycles, novel studies, and a field trip to Ripley's Aquarium.
- Bethune-Bowman, Dover, and Mellichamp Elementary – \$232,600
- Final-year grant supporting student relationship building, technology integration, and problem-solving across the curriculum.

Finance Update



Finance Highlights

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

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Implement a retention stipend incentive for employees based on years of service to OCSD.	June 2022/ongoing	✓	Bonuses & Step Increase
OCSD will provide stipends to acknowledge and compensate district staff for professional growth micro credentials.	June 2022/ongoing		Masters and Doctorate Pay Increase
Provide Summer Professional Development opportunities for all staff to include stipends.	July 2022/August 2022 Annually	✓	Summer School Pay
OCSD will provide room and board/moving assistance for recent college graduates	Jul 2022	✓	Partnership with Palmetto Federal Citizens Credit Union to Offer Educators Funds for Down Payment Assistance and/or Closing Cost

Fiscal Year 2026 Approved Budget

	FY 26 Approved Budget	Fy 25 Approved Budget
Revenue	\$154,514,997.00	\$148,829,112.00
Fund Balance	\$5,800,922.00	\$2,998,503.00
Revenue + Fund Balance	\$160,315,919.00	\$151,827,615.00
		
Expenditures	\$160,315,919.00	\$151,827,615.00

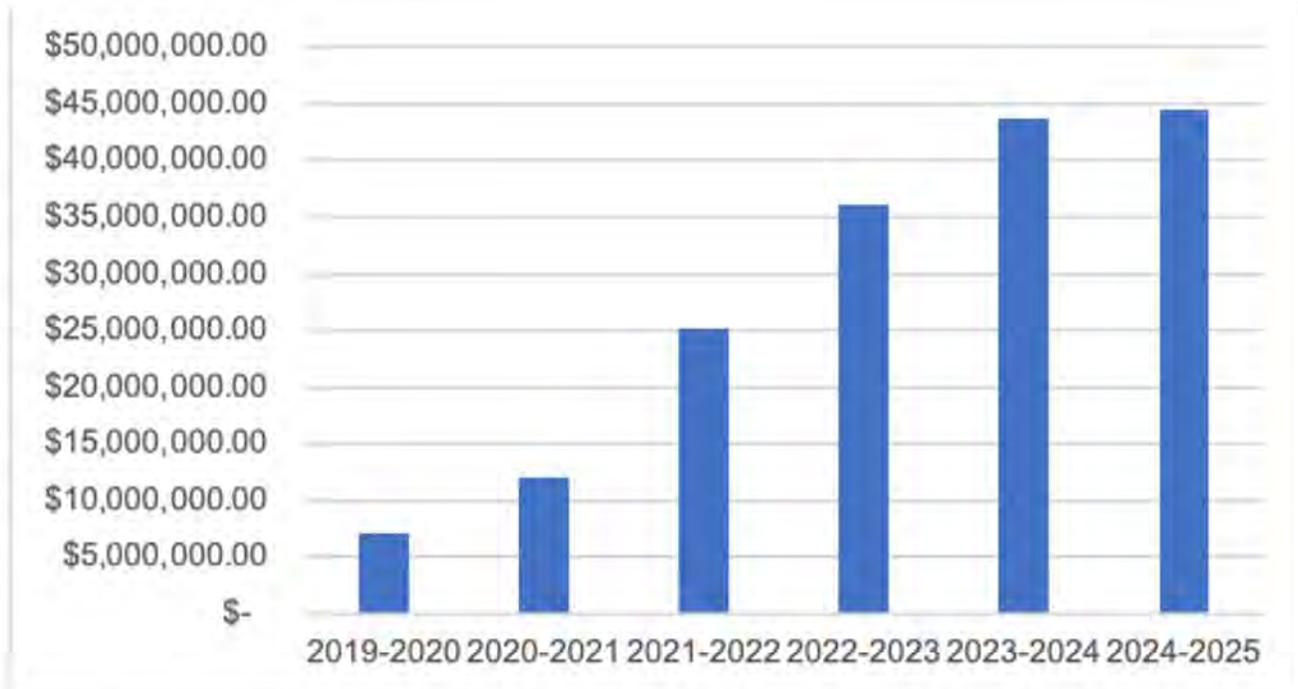
The Orangeburg County School District Board of Trustees has approved the 2025–2026 General Fund Operating Budget totaling \$160,315,919, reinforcing the district's commitment to competitive compensation, employee support, and continued investment in student success.

The budget prioritizes strengthening the district's workforce, including a \$1,500 increase to the Teacher Salary Scale, a 2 percent raise for Bus Drivers, and step increases for all eligible employees. These enhancements reflect OCSD's ongoing dedication to attracting and retaining high-quality educators and staff who serve as the foundation of student learning.

In alignment with rising statewide benefit costs, the budget also incorporates a 4.6 percent increase to the Employer Health Insurance Contribution, ensuring employees continue to receive essential coverage and support.

Beyond compensation, the approved budget expands the district's efforts to build and sustain a strong team. Funding is included for signing bonuses, retention bonuses, and a range of initiatives designed to strengthen recruitment, improve workplace satisfaction, and elevate instructional outcomes across OCSD.

Fund Balance



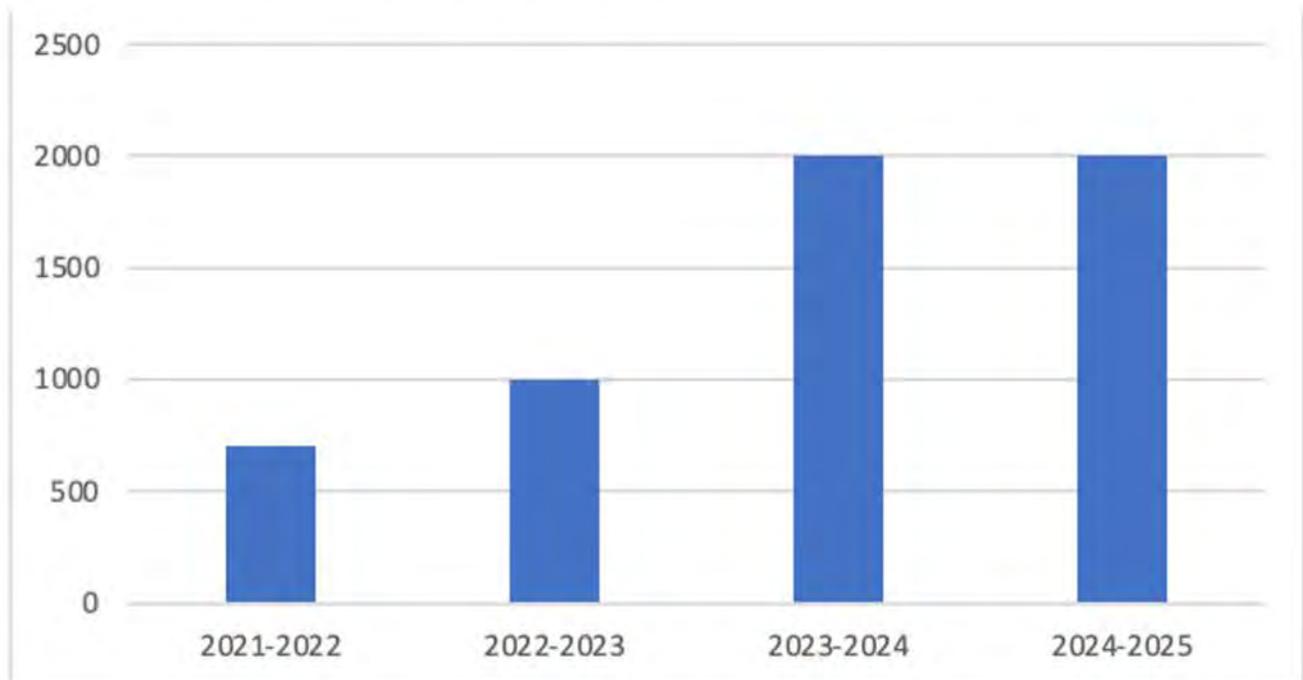
Orangeburg County School District has achieved a significant financial milestone, marking its fifth straight year of fund balance growth. The fund balance has risen from \$7.1 million to an impressive \$44.4 million, demonstrating the District's ongoing commitment to responsible financial management.

A healthy fund balance serves as a crucial safeguard, enabling the District to navigate unexpected challenges and unplanned expenses without disrupting essential operations. This financial stability ensures that OCSD can continue delivering high-quality programs and services, supporting students, staff, and families across the county.

This continued progress reflects strategic planning, disciplined budgeting, and a focus on long-term sustainability—key components in building capacity and sustaining success.

Employee Bonuses

The District implemented annual retention bonuses for all employees beginning in the 2021–2022 school year, starting at \$700. The bonuses increased over time and reached \$2,000 in both 2023–2024 and 2024–2025. Continuing this initiative for four consecutive years demonstrates the District’s strong commitment to supporting and retaining its workforce. This investment has provided a meaningful incentive for employees to stay with the District and has contributed to reducing staff turnover.



Fiscal Year 23-24 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 "10" which is considered low risk.

To comply with §200.332(c), the SCDE conducted the annual risk assessment of, and assigned a risk score to each of its sub-recipients 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)



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 approximately \$190 million series 2025 general obligation (GO) 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 12, 2025.

Finance in Action

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 2025 Audit Results

For the fourth consecutive year, Orangeburg County School District received an unmodified audit opinion for FY 2024–2025. Independent auditors confirmed that the District’s financial statements were presented fairly and met all required accounting standards.

This milestone reflects the District’s unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible financial leadership. Consistent clean audits demonstrate the strength of the District’s internal controls, the effectiveness of its financial oversight, and its dedication to safeguarding public resources.

**ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025**

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

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

Identification of major programs:

<u>AI Number(s)</u>	<u>Name of Federal Program or Cluster Passed through the US. Department of Agriculture</u>
10.553/10.555/10.582	Child Nutrition Cluster
84.010	Passed through the Department of Education Title I

Dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs \$ 1,246,648

Orangeburg County School District qualified as a low-risk auditee? Yes

- II. Financial Statement Audit Findings** None reported.
- III. Federal Awards Findings and Questioned Costs** None reported.
- IV. Schedule of Prior Year Findings** None reported.

Human Resources Update



Human Resources Highlights

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

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
OCSD will implement recruitment stipends/bonuses for critical needs areas as determined by district data.	July 2022/September 2026	✓	Life2 Recruitment Bonuses for Critical Areas
OCSD will strengthen partnerships with local colleges and universities as well as coordinators by offering a Student Teacher Academy and professional development.	July 2022/ongoing	✓	Student Teacher Mentoring Program & Voorhees Free Masters Degree Program
Implement and identify District Champions to serve as recruiters for the district. Identified staff would receive stipends, PD opportunities and support.	August 2022/ongoing	✓	Leadership Academy & Referral Bonuses
Create a Stay and Exit survey and use data to inform and drive recruitment practices.	June 2022/ongoing	✓	Letter of Intent & Climate Surveys
OCSD will provide cross training to support growing employees from within for upward mobility and/or promotions.	July 2022/ongoing	✓	G.R.O.W Program & Leadership Academy
OCSD will establish Mentor Programs for various staff levels	July 2022/ongoing	✓	N.E.O. Academy
OCSD will hire Content Specialists for specific content areas and grade bands	July 2022/ongoing	✓	Hired C&I Content Specialists

Human Resources Highlights

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
OCSD will expand and promote the Teacher Cadet Program	July 2022/ongoing		
OCSD will create and conduct training for norms and standards for each department/position	July 2022/ongoing		
Extend new teacher contracts to 193 days to ensure summer professional development is used with fidelity.	April 2022/Ongoing	✓	
OCSD will create and implement a reward and recognition program to recognize employee achievement and performance.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	<p>TOY & SSOY Employee of the Month Rookie Teacher N.E.O Induction Principal of the Month Retirement Banquet Transportation Celebration Principal & AP of the Year</p>
OCSD will provide incentives such as: retention bonuses, salary increases, promotion, etc.in efforts to retain staff.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	
OCSD will create a timeline for employees to have the opportunity to have more than one transfer date.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Letter of Intent
OCSD will have representation from each school to serve on a retention committee.	Jul 2022	✓	<p>Committee Helps with Employee Appreciation Days as well as birthday celebrations and appreciation events at the school /department level.</p>
OCSD will have a support system for international and first year teachers to include mentorship, instruction, housing, and transportation.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	N.E.O. Program
OCSD will have a Teacher Leadership Program for effective teaching and learning.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	Leadership Academy

Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline Through University Partnerships

Orangeburg County School District continued to invest in the future of education by strengthening its long-standing partnerships with Claflin University and South Carolina State University. Through these collaborations, education majors are able to complete their student teaching requirements in OCSD schools, gaining hands-on classroom experience while contributing to the district's mission of high-quality instruction.

This partnership has also become one of the district's most successful recruitment strategies. Many student teachers transition seamlessly into full-time roles, often becoming the teacher of record in the same schools where they completed their student teaching.



Employee Appreciation Day

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) proudly celebrated its annual Employee Appreciation Day with the spirited theme, "Boots on the Ground." This year's event, held at the scenic Edisto Memorial Gardens, was a heartfelt tribute to the dedication and perseverance of OCSD's incredible faculty and staff.



From 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., employees enjoyed an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and entertainment, highlighted by a special performance from recording artist 803Fresh. The event captured the essence of OCSD's mission to celebrate those who go above and beyond every day to support student success.



Employee Recognitions



OCSD continues to lead with intention by recognizing and rewarding the extraordinary individuals who shape the district's success. Through its Employee Reward and Recognition Program, the district honors employees who exemplify excellence in performance, leadership, and service.



In addition to the prestigious District Teacher of the Year and District Support Staff of the Year, OCSD celebrates its Rookie Teacher of the Year, Principal of the Year, and Assistant Principal of the Year—highlighting emerging talent and strong leadership at every level.



Monthly recognitions, including the Rookie Teacher of the Month and Employee of the Month, are presented at OCSD's Board of Trustees meetings, offering ongoing appreciation for staff who demonstrate outstanding dedication.

OCSD Recruitment Fair

The 2025 recruitment season marked a record-breaking success for Orangeburg County School District. Through a series of Recruitment Fairs, Walk-Up Wednesdays, and active engagement at college campuses, OCSD drew passionate educators ready to make a difference.

Strategic partnerships with colleges and universities, as well as the innovative RECHARGE retiree program, played key roles in this success. OCSD opened the 2025–2026 school year with only two classroom teacher vacancies—the lowest number in the district's history since consolidation.

This milestone reflects OCSD's growing reputation as a destination district for top educational talent and its ongoing commitment to ensuring every student has access to a highly qualified teacher on the first day of school.



OCSD Retirement Celebration

OCSD proudly celebrated 46 distinguished retirees who have devoted their careers to educating, inspiring, and uplifting generations of students.

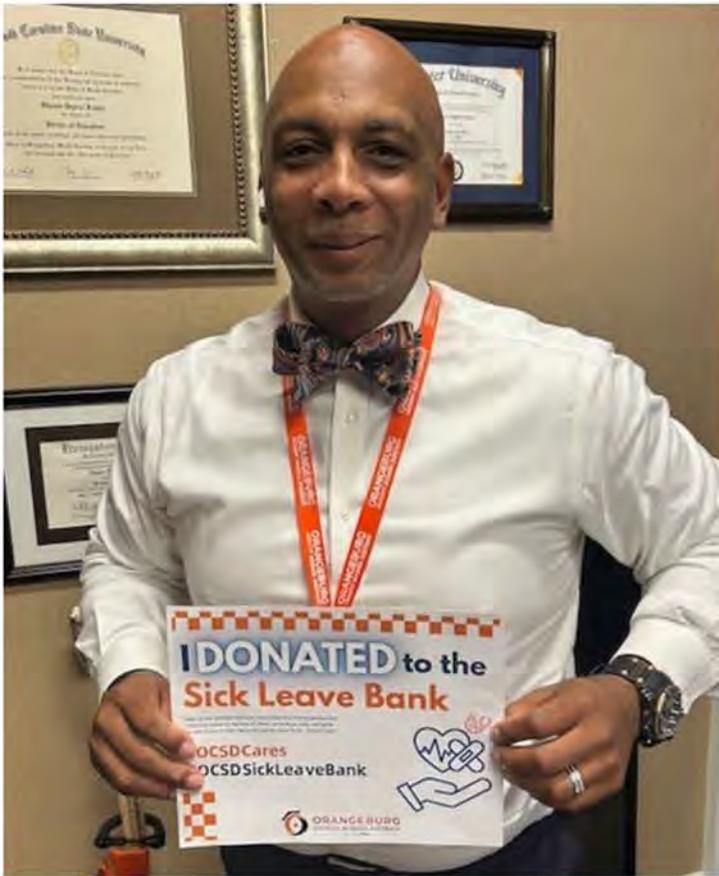
Held in honor of these exceptional individuals, the OCSD Retirement Celebration recognized their invaluable service, enduring impact, and lasting contributions to the district and community.

Each retiree leaves behind a legacy of love, learning, and leadership. Their work has helped shape the future of countless students, and for that, we are forever grateful.”

- Dr. Shawn Foster, OCSD Superintendent



OCSD Sick Leave Bank



In keeping with its commitment to compassion and care, OCSD established a Sick Leave Bank to support employees during times of medical hardship.

Available to all employees who work a minimum of 30 hours per week and earn sick leave, the program provides access to paid leave for those experiencing a catastrophic illness, injury, non-elective surgery, or incapacitation—without the immediate need to activate long-term disability.

This initiative reflects OCSD's deep commitment to fostering a supportive workplace culture that prioritizes the well-being of its employees.



2025 SCABSE District Level Personnel of the Year

Dr. Sharon Frances Hampton, Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, was selected as the 2025 District Level Personnel of the Year by the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE). This honor recognized her outstanding leadership, decades of service, and dedication to strengthening public education. She was formally celebrated at the SCABSE Jazz Brunch in June.

With more than 31 years in education, Dr. Hampton served as a teacher, counselor, assistant principal, and principal before transitioning into district leadership. In her role, she led recruitment and retention efforts that ensured students received high-quality instruction across OCSD.



Operations Update



Operations Highlights

OCSD's Operations Department has accomplished the following:

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Conduct independent audits on all facilities every 3-5 years.	July 2022/July 2025	✓	
Conduct demography studies of the district every 3-5 years.	July 2022/Ongoing	✓	
OCSD will explore bond referendum options.	January 2022/Ongoing	✓	Bond Approved
OCSD will establish a capital funds spending plan.	July 2022/Annually	✓	
Implement Energy Performance Contract for the upgrading of HVAC, Lighting, Controls, Roofs, Plumbing, Security, Security Systems and Building.	2022	✓	ABM Performance Contract
Conduct facilities studies	2022	✓	
Review Energy Management Standards	2025/Ongoing		
Review Technology Enhancements	2025/Ongoing		
Implement Technology Advancements	2025/Ongoing		
Develop a facility usage plan district wide, for school based athletic and extracurricular programs.	2025/Ongoing		
Create a committee to develop community engagement programs and events.	2025/Ongoing		

Safety and Emergency Management

Edisto High School Homecoming Security Operations Planning

A comprehensive Security Operations Planning Meeting was held at Edisto High School ahead of Homecoming Week. Participants included school administrators, the District Safety and Emergency Management Department, the sheriff's office, school resource officers, event coordinators, and additional support staff. The team developed coordinated plans for the pep rally, parade, football game, and dance to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for students and families.



Carver-Edisto Middle Intruder Drill Debrief

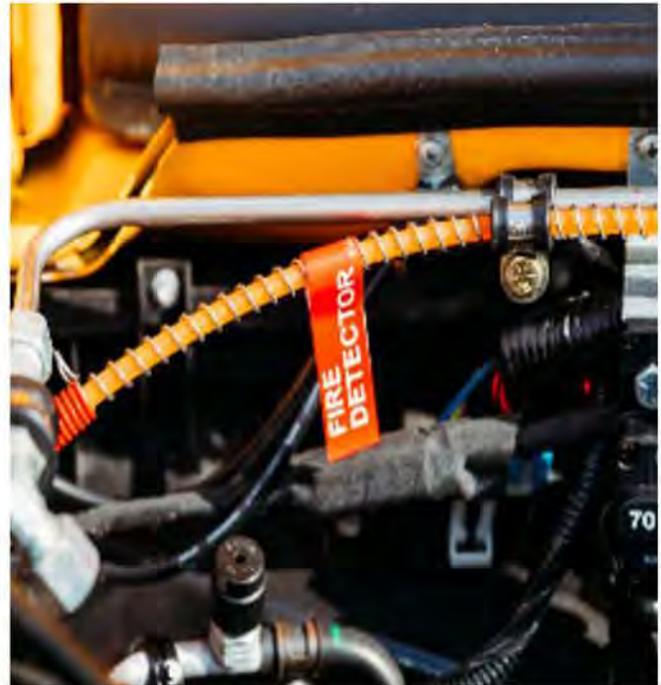
Following a scheduled intruder drill, Carver-Edisto Middle School's administrative team met with the District Special Emergency Response Team for a full debrief. The discussion reviewed communication procedures, lockdown execution, staff response, student safety practices, and collaboration with emergency personnel. The meeting focused on strengths, areas of improvement, and best practices to continue reinforcing preparedness across the district.



Transportation Enhancements

Fire Suppression Systems on District-Owned Buses

District leadership continued to strengthen transportation safety through the installation of advanced fire suppression systems on district-owned buses. The Fogmaker system uses high-pressure water mist technology to cool and displace oxygen, significantly increasing fire response effectiveness. The system also includes a film-forming agent that blankets fuel sources to prevent reignition. These improvements reflect Dr. Foster's commitment to maintaining the highest safety standards across the fleet.



EnviroKlenz SMART Air Purification on Buses

OCS D expanded its investment in health and safety by installing EnviroKlenz SMART devices on district-owned buses. Powered by FAST-ACT technology and patented mineral science, these devices rapidly capture and neutralize airborne contaminants and odors. The addition of these systems elevated air quality for students and staff during transport.

Field Experience and Activity Trip Management Softwares

To streamline operations, the district adopted an automated system for managing field experiences and activity trip requests. The software supported the full workflow, beginning with trip submissions and approvals and continuing through bus and driver assignments, mileage tracking, time documentation, invoicing, and reporting. The system created a more efficient and transparent process for schools and vendors.

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 the project is underway with students projected to move in by the 2026-2027 school year.



Construction

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

Orangeburg County School District marked a key milestone in the construction of the new Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School with the ceremonial placement of a community-signed beam, signaling the project's move into its final stages.

OCSD Board members, district staff, construction crews from M.B. Kahn Construction, local officials, and community members gathered to witness the historic moment, which was also covered by local news.

The new 280,209-square-foot campus will feature modern classrooms, collaborative learning spaces, and labs designed to support student success. Athletic facilities include baseball, softball, football, and tennis areas, a gym with indoor batting cages, and a football stadium with a Hall of Champions and fully equipped visiting locker rooms.



Construction



Bond Referendum Oversight and Construction Progress

1ST Quarter Bond Referendum Oversight Committee Meeting Friday, November 14th, 2025

The first quarter Bond Referendum Oversight Committee meeting was held on Friday, November 14, 2025. Members visited the construction site of the new Orangeburg Wilkinson High School for an in-person walkthrough. The visit allowed the committee to observe the progress made to date and gain insight into the next phases of the project.



Facilities & Maintenance

Facility Upgrades

Maintenance teams completed numerous improvement projects across the district:

Founders Court Board Room

- Extended the platform and installed new carpet featuring the OCSD logo.

Bethune Bowman

- Installed new security fencing and gates from the main building to the main gym.

Branchville and Lockett

- Installed new gym flooring and protective netting in the main gym.

Brookdale Elementary

- Installed Robert E. Howard bleachers in the gym.
- Installed two 10-ton HVAC units for the gym.

Carver-Edisto Middle

- Resurfaced the front parking lot.

Central Transportation

- Installed a new aluminum ramp for the transportation trailer.

William J. Clark Middle

- Installed a climate controlled container for Food Services.
- Remodeled the Home Economics room with a new hood, flooring, paint, and updated appliances.
- Replaced flooring in selected rooms.
- Assisted with construction of the recording studio.

Dover Elementary

- Completed interior and exterior painting.

East Lake Elementary

- Installed a new playground with artificial turf.
- Connected HVAC systems to remote monitoring and control.

Edisto High

- Replaced VCT flooring in selected areas.
- Removed water loop HVAC units and installed a new VRF system.
- Replaced selected windows.
- Closed the Edisto Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Elloree Elementary

- Resurfaced the entire parking lot.
- Installed a new marquee sign.
- Replaced selected windows.

Hunter-Kinard-Tyler

- Sanded and repainted the main and auxiliary gym floors.

Robert E. Howard Middle

- Completed full demolition of the existing building and redistributed materials across the district.

Lake Marion

- Redesigned the baseball field with a cement walkway and pads for bleachers.
- Resurfaced and overseeded the softball field.
- Completed carpet installation in the auditorium.

North Middle High

- Replaced HVAC units on the vocational building.
- Replaced flooring and painted selected areas.

Orangeburg Wilkinson High

- Installed several 7.5 ton portable HVAC units.

Whittaker Elementary

- Replaced aging HVAC units.
- Upgraded lighting with new LED fixtures.

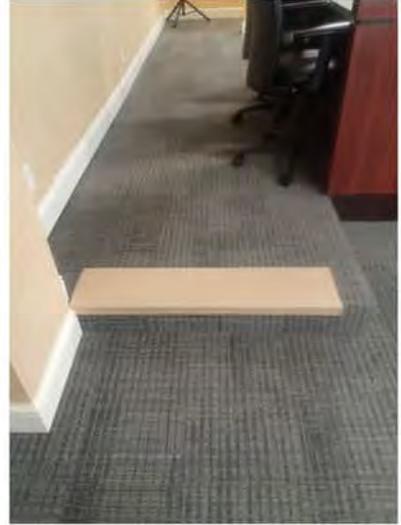
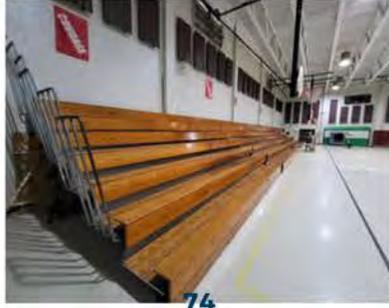
Facilities & Maintenance



Facilities & Maintenance



Facilities & Maintenance



School Nutrition

Nutrition Services introduced a weekly competition that highlighted daily school menus for a chance to be named South Carolina's Tray of the Week. Staff also prepared for the opening of the new East Lake Elementary kitchen, ensured readiness, and expanded district storage with a climate controlled container for Clark Kitchen. Renovations connected the Howard and Clark kitchens, creating improved flow and efficiency. At Clark, parts of the kitchen were restructured to make room for reach-in pass through spaces that increased speed and access during meal service.



School Nutrition

Orangeburg County School District celebrated another successful Big Thursday, with an impressive 7,008 students enjoying school lunch as part of the districtwide participation challenge. Inspired by the historic Clemson vs. South Carolina rivalry, Big Thursday is all about team spirit, fun, and fueling success with nutritious meals. This year's grand prize winner of the Max portable wireless tailgate speaker is Steven Moore of Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School. Steven will also represent OCSD in the statewide drawing, where one student from each district will have the chance to win a \$200 gift card and a T-shirt.

The three runners-up, who each won a waterproof wireless speaker, are James Oliver from Dover Elementary, Amiyah Brooks from Edisto High, and Journee Sweat from Marshall Elementary.



Student Services Update

Student Services Highlights

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

Task	Due Date	Done	Comments
Ensure students with disabilities learn in least restrictive environments	July 2022/ongoing		
Implement sports camps for students to learn the fundamentals of each type of sport (e.g. football, basketball, baseball, soccer, tennis, wrestling, swimming, or golf).	June 2022/February 2023	✓	Summer Conditioning & Athletic Camps
Partner with the Parks and Recreation departments to provide an opportunity to play various sports.	June 2022/December 2022		In the works: Basketball Tournament
Teach the tenets of good sportsmanship through the guidance department, physical education, and health.	June 2022/May 2023	✓	MUSC Sports Medecine Partnership
Create sports competitions at the elementary and middle level such as double-dutch, dribbling contest, or relay-races.	July 2023/May 2024	✓	Field Days
Implement wellness teams at each school that emphasize activities such as walking and nutrition.	July 2023/May 2024	✓	MUSC Wellness Partnership & School Walks for A Cause

School Health Services

Throughout the 2024–2025 school year, OCSD nurses continued to provide high-quality care, support, and health education to students across the district. Nurses completed CPR training with David Pendarvis in August 2025, ensuring they remain fully prepared for emergency situations. New nurse Aubrey Seeley at Edisto Elementary began the year by preparing and organizing her health office to welcome students. Many school nurses also kept their offices decorated and student-friendly to create a welcoming and comforting environment.

The district celebrated the retirements of two dedicated nurses, Robyn Heaton and Teresa Carter, whose years of service made a lasting impact on OCSD students and families. During Nurses Week, schools across the district recognized and honored the important work of our nursing staff.



Social Services and Mental Health Support

OCSD continued its commitment to promoting mental wellness, safety, and student support throughout the year. In September, the district observed Suicide Awareness Month under the theme Creating Hope Through Action. The month served as a reminder that protecting the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of students is essential to their success. Safeguard procedures are in place to assess, intervene, and respond to students in crisis. The District Mental Health Facilitator encouraged students and families to reach out for support, emphasizing that struggles in life do not have to be the end of life.

In May, OCSD recognized Mental Health Awareness Month with the national theme “Turn Awareness Into Action”. Students, staff, and families were encouraged to take active steps toward wellness through community conversations, school-based supports, and increased awareness of mental health resources. The district reaffirmed its responsibility to create a culture in which every student and staff member feels seen, valued, and supported.



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.

The Scholarship Booklet continued to serve as an essential guide for college and career planning. Provided electronically to students in grades 8 through 12 during IGP conferences, the booklet includes information on paying for college, National Merit Scholar qualifications, South Carolina scholarship programs, open house dates for state colleges and universities, and links to national institutions and Ivy League requirements. It also highlights local and national scholarship opportunities and provides resources for students and families seeking financial support for higher education.

SCHOLARSHIP HANDBOOK



2025-2026 School Year



INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION PLAN PLANNING GUIDE



2025-2026 School Year



Exploring Future Pathways at HIRE Up Career Event



Eleventh and twelfth-grade students across Orangeburg County School District experienced a powerful day of career exploration at the HIRE Up event, hosted by the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce and the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. This hands-on opportunity connected students with local employers, workforce experts, and a variety of career resources.



This hands-on opportunity connected students with local employers, workforce experts, and a variety of career resources — giving them real-world insight into the possibilities that await after graduation.



Through conversations, demonstrations, and interactive sessions, students gained valuable knowledge to help guide their next steps and build confidence as they prepare for college, careers, and beyond.

Exploring Medical Fields at MUSC Health Career Fair

Students from across Orangeburg County School District had the incredible opportunity to take part in the MUSC Health Orangeburg Healthcare Career Exploration Fair. They engaged with healthcare professionals, discovered a variety of medical career pathways, and gained hands-on insights into the world of healthcare.

This experience helped students deepen their understanding of in-demand careers while inspiring many to consider future roles in medicine and allied health fields. OCSD is grateful to MUSC Health Orangeburg for providing such a meaningful learning opportunity for our students.



OCSD Students Named National Beta Club Champions

Orangeburg County School District is proud to celebrate three outstanding students who earned top honors at the National Beta Club Convention. Their achievements highlight exceptional academic talent, creativity, and leadership across our schools.

Imani Jean of Edisto Elementary earned first place in Speech, becoming a back-to-back National Champion. In addition to her speaking accomplishments, she is also a published author whose leadership and creativity continue to inspire her peers.

Tyler Dailey-Sweat of Holly Hill Elementary was named the first place 5th Grade ELA National Champion. His strong literacy skills and dedication to academic excellence were on full display at the national competition.

Torriane Loller, also from Holly Hill Elementary, took second place in Sculpture and finished in the top ten nationally in 5th Grade Math. His achievements reflect both artistic talent and strong academic ability.



OCSD Student Named Top 10 Finalist for Prestigious U.S. Senate Youth Program

Xion Goldsmith, an exceptional student leader at Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School, was selected as one of South Carolina's Top 10 finalists for the prestigious United States Senate Youth Program (USSYP). This outstanding achievement placed Xion among the state's most accomplished young scholars and positioned him for advancement to the final stage of the highly selective national competition. Goldsmith is also a prominent student leader at the state level, serving as President of the South Carolina Association of Student Councils, alongside Patrick Hubbard, who serves as Vice President.

Goldsmith participated in a 30-minute finalist interview with a distinguished judging panel on Thursday, November 20, at the Palmetto Club in Columbia, SC. The interviews were followed by a recognition luncheon honoring finalists, their families, and school officials.

Founded in 1962 through Senate Resolution 324, the United States Senate Youth Program is one of the nation's most distinguished civic leadership programs for high-achieving high school juniors and seniors. Administered by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and sponsored by the U.S. Senate, the program identifies and cultivates the next generation of American leaders. Selection is highly competitive and based on exceptional academic performance, leadership in student government or civic organizations, and a demonstrated commitment to serving others.



Parent Engagement

OCSD Strengthens Family and Community Partnerships Through Spring Engagement Sessions

Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) continued its commitment to supporting families and strengthening community partnerships through several key engagement sessions held this year.

On May 15, 2025, parent liaisons met at the Orangeburg County Library for the Parent Liaison Strategic Planning Session. Led by Kimberly L. Ray, the session included team activities, program updates, and presentations from district partners covering family engagement, Handle With Care SC, and the Family Needs Assessment Survey. Dr. Rena Bowman shared data insights and outlined priorities for the 2025–2026 school year, including Parent University, increased trainings, improved visibility, and consistent documentation. The meeting concluded with a SWOT analysis and closing remarks, with the next session scheduled for July 29.

OCSD also participated in the Community Consortium Meeting on March 5, 2025. Facilitated by Community Engagement Specialist Romaine Stephens, the meeting included program updates and a powerful discussion titled Human Trafficking: A Survivor's Point of View, followed by a Q&A and member announcements.

On March 25, 2025, parent liaisons attended a professional development session at the Orangeburg Fine Arts Center. The training featured ACES instruction, team activities, district updates, and opportunities for collaboration aimed at improving support for families across the district.

OCSD continues to support families through ongoing initiatives, including its annual Angel Tree Holiday Assistance program in partnership with the Salvation Army.



Special Olympics

On March 21st, Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School hosted the District-Wide Special Olympics in partnership with the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Department.



OCSD Leaders Honored with State Athletic Awards

Dr. Shawn Foster, Superintendent of OCSD, has been named the SCAAA Superintendent of the Year. This distinguished honor highlights his exceptional leadership, unwavering support for athletic programs, and his commitment to ensuring students have access to well-rounded educational and extracurricular experiences.

In addition, Keith Parks, Athletic Director at North Middle High School, has been named the SCAAA Region 3 Athletic Director of the Year. This award recognizes his outstanding leadership, dedication to student-athletes, and his commitment to building strong, competitive, and character-driven athletic programs.



Celebrates 2024-2025 College Athletic Signees

Orangeburg County School District is proud to recognize student-athletes across the district who have committed to continuing both their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. These students have demonstrated hard work, discipline, and dedication, and we celebrate their achievements as they take the next step in their athletic journey.

Bethune-Bowman Middle High School

Bryson Robinson

Basketball, North Iowa Community College

Kaden Woods

Basketball, Montreat College

Shavoy Holloway

Football, Fork Union Military Academy



Hunter-Kinard-Tyler Middle High School

Akiera Blue

Basketball, Paine College

North Middle High School

Nasiah Rhodes

Track and Field, Francis Marion University

Diane Hosey

Track and Field, Francis Marion University



Christopher Singletary

Track and Field, Clinton College



Celebrates 2024-2025 College Athletic Signees

Lake Marion High School

Mason Miles

Football, Brevard College

Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School

Malayshia Bradley

Volleyball, Johnson C. Smith University

Alyx Foster

Volleyball, Clark Atlanta University

Karmen Hyman

Volleyball, Albany State University

Zion Howell

Track and Field, Wofford College

Nick Payne

Football, Allen University

David Blanchard

Football, The Citadel

Jayden Skinner

Football, Erskine College
(Originally committed to Brevard College)

Aaron Ulmer

Baseball, Claflin University



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.



Speak Life Day 2025

Orangeburg County School District celebrated the 6th Annual Speak Life Day, filling our schools with encouragement, uplifting messages, inspiring posters, and plenty of smiles. A special thank-you goes to our very own Hayward Jean for empowering students to be the light, speak positivity, and share love throughout our campuses!



Speak Life Day 2025



MLK Oratory Contest



OCSD proudly hosted its fourth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Oratory Competition on January 28, 2025, at Edisto Fork United Methodist Church. Centered on the theme “Building Capacity, Sustaining Success,” the event brought together talented fourth and fifth grade students who shared powerful ideas for strengthening their communities.

Participants from 14 OCSD elementary schools delivered thoughtful, inspiring speeches rooted in Dr. King’s legacy. Their messages of unity, hope, and action highlighted the leadership potential already taking shape in classrooms across the district.

This year’s winners were:

- First Place: Armanie Francis, Ellore Elementary
- Second Place: Zionna Carmon, Dover Elementary
- Third Place: Kiah Gathers, St. James-Gaillard Elementary

Judges noted the exceptional talent displayed by all participants and the difficulty of selecting only three winners. Each student brought a unique perspective, demonstrating confidence, creativity, and a deep understanding of Dr. King’s message.

Students from The Oratory School visited the WIS-TV studios and were interviewed by anchor Billie Jean Shaw. The experience offered a behind-the-scenes look at journalism and inspired students to explore future careers in media and communications.

MLK Oratory Contest



MLK Oratory Contest



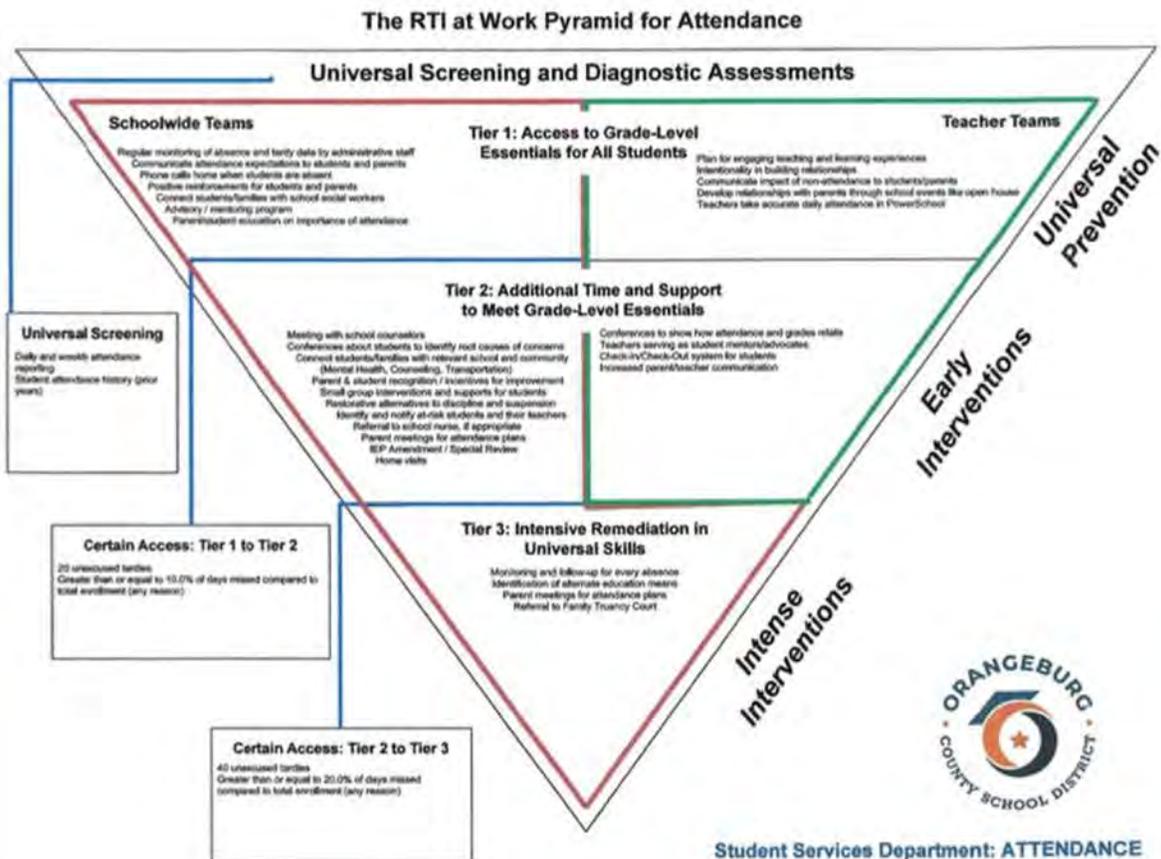
Community of Character

Through the Leaders in the Making program, MLK Orator participants and fifth grade Character Award recipients engaged in activities designed to strengthen leadership skills, character development, and student voice.



Attendance and Intervention Supports

Student Services continued to implement the RTI at Work Pyramid for Attendance, a tiered system focused on proactive intervention:



Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MATTERS...

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Attendance Works

www.attendanceworks.org

OCSD continues to lead an attendance campaign to ensure student's are present for their education.

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.

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