

Closing the High School "Gifted Gap"

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Orange County Public Schools

District Overview

- **8th Largest District in the nation**
- **193,616 students**
  - **13,419 students identified as Gifted**
  - **58,532 traditional** high school students
- **23 traditional high schools**
  - **5 Title 1**
  - **97.2% Graduation rate** (Class of 2026)
  - **74.6% College & Career Acceleration rate** (Class of 2025)

*Class of 2026 acceleration rate has not been published yet.

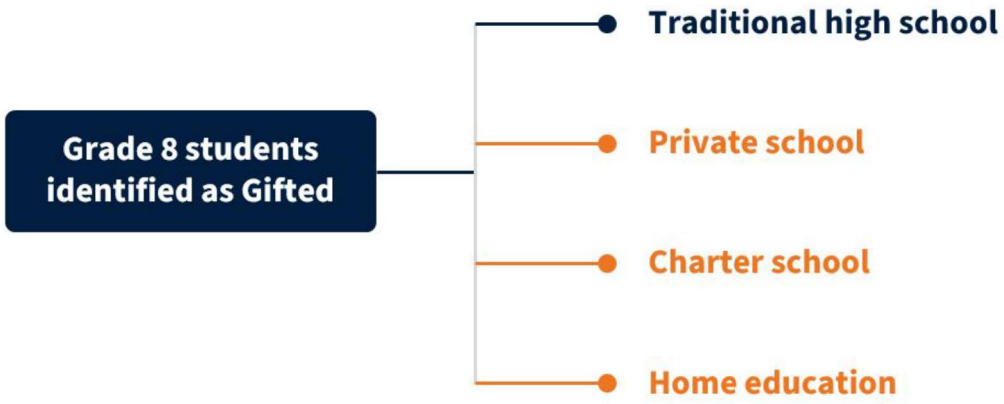
Orlando Gifted Academy





The High School Transition Challenge

- Parent Anxieties: Fear of diluted rigor, lost peer community, and overwhelming campus scale
- District Impact: Enrollment in private and charter schools



Continuing the Gifted Experience in High School

- **Academic challenge**
  Advanced coursework and instruction responsive to gifted learners.
- **A familiar peer community**
  A cohort that helps students feel known and connected.
- **A full high school experience**
  Athletics, arts, clubs and career opportunities on the same campus.

The Innovation: "School-within-a-School"

- **A school within a school**
  A gifted cohort within a comprehensive high school.
- **Shared academic experience**
  Cohort coursework creates continuity in advanced learning.
- **Full participation in campus life**
  Students also access athletics, arts, clubs and career pathways.

Academic Continuity and Challenge

- **Middle-to-high-school collaboration**
  Connect teachers around student strengths and learning needs.
- **Gifted education plans**
  Connect individual goals to classroom learning and course planning.
- **Depth and appropriate pacing**
  Provide opportunities for inquiry, independent work and acceleration.

Belonging and Student Support

- **A gifted peer community**
  Create connection as students move into a larger campus.
- **Responsive guidance**
  Address adjustment, perfectionism and academic pressure.
- **Planning beyond graduation**
  Connect student interests with college and career goals.

Planning Considerations for Districts

- **Scheduling**
  Protect cohort courses while preserving elective access.
- **Staff collaboration**
  Build time for middle and high school teams to plan together.
- **Family engagement**
  Show families the academic pathway and the full campus experience.

A gifted cohort can give students a smaller learning community within the opportunities of a comprehensive high school.

Contact Information



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