

The "On-Campus" Advantage: Removing Barriers to Dual Enrollment

Dr. Britt Despenza, Chief of High Schools
Dr. Alex Jackson, Principal, Edgewater High School
Ericka Scheid, Senior Director, Student Services

Orange County Public Schools

District Overview

- **8th Largest District in the country**
- **193,616 students**
  - **23 traditional high schools**
    - **5 Title 1**
  - 58,532 traditional high school students
- **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.

Two Needs Shaped Two Models

- **Academic dual enrollment**
  Previous pilot (2022-23) revealed gaps in progress monitoring, instructor communication and student support.
- **Technical dual enrollment (Metropolitan Academy at OTC)**
  We recognized a need for technical pathways for students who may not have seen themselves as college-bound.
- **Our response**
  Design each model around the students it would serve.

Academic Model: College Instruction at the High School

- **High school teachers** approved to teach face-to-face as college adjuncts
- Dedicated high school sections with **direct progress monitoring**
- **GPA waiver** expanding eligibility from 3.0 to 2.7
- **Access expanded** to grades 9–10, with additional course options in 2026-27

College coursework within a familiar support system.

Technical Pathway with High School Support

Launched in 2026-27

- GPA waiver allows participation below the 2.0 entry threshold.
- Full-day experience combines technical training and high school academic support.
- Students maintain their connection to their zoned high school.

Programs include:

Welding, plumbing, electricity, digital media and medical administrative specialist.

Expanded Eligibility With Support Built In

Academic dual enrollment

- Response to lessons learned from the virtual pilot
- GPA waiver: 3.0 to 2.7
- College instruction at the high school
- Dedicated sections and direct progress monitoring

Technical dual enrollment

- Technical pathways
- Removal of the 2.0 GPA entry barrier
- Technical training and academic support at OTC
- Full-day schedule and coordinated support

Eligibility and support are part of the same design.

Expanding Participation and Course Options

Academic Dual Enrollment

- 2024-25: 1,366 students
  - Launched with Student Life Skills as the required foundational course
- 2025-26: 2,131 students
  - Added Career Exploration and Leveling Up Leadership
- 2026-27, year to date: 1,619 students
  - Added Early Childhood courses and opened Harnessing AI to all grades

Technical Dual Enrollment

- 39 students from 8 traditional high schools across 3 technical campuses

Student Needs Should Shape the Opportunity

- **Expand eligibility**
  Use partnership GPA waivers to reach additional students.
- **Build in support**
  Connect instruction, scheduling and progress monitoring.
- **Evaluate progress**
  Examine participation and outcomes for each model.

Contact Information



Dr. Britt Despenza
Chief of High Schools
High School Office
britt.despenza@ocps.net



Dr. Alex Jackson
Principal
Edgewater High School
alex.jackson@ocps.net



Ericka Scheid
Senior Director
Student Services
ericka.scheid@ocps.net

PREPARE | INSPIRE | EMPOWER

PREPARE | INSPIRE | EMPOWER

PREPARE | INSPIRE | EMPOWER

Orange County Public Schools