ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
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ORANGEBURG COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT LAUNCHES COLLEGE WEEK 2026, EMPOWERING STUDENTS TO TURN DREAMS INTO ACTIONABLE PLANS

Five-day "Pathway Expedition" celebrates college, career, and workforce opportunities while encouraging every student to explore their future

ORANGEBURG, S.C. – Every great journey begins with a dream, but turning that dream into reality requires a plan. This week, Orangeburg County School District (OCSD) is challenging students to discover their possibilities, explore new opportunities, and take meaningful steps toward their futures as the district celebrates College Week 2026, November 16–20, under the inspiring theme "The Pathway Expedition: It's Not Just a Dream — It's a Plan!"

This year's College Week transforms college and career exploration into a five-day expedition. Students across the district will become explorers, navigating pathways to success while discovering that their futures are filled with possibilities.

Throughout the week, students will be encouraged to look beyond traditional definitions of success and consider the many educational and professional opportunities available after high school. From Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and four-year institutions to

community colleges, technical education, apprenticeships, military service, industry certifications, and direct entry into the workforce, the district is reinforcing one important message: There is no single pathway to success, but every successful journey benefits from preparation and a plan.

"College Week is about helping our students understand that their dreams are not limited by their circumstances, their backgrounds, or even what they know about the world today," said Dr. Shawn D. Foster, Superintendent of Orangeburg County School District. "We want every student to recognize that they have options, that their talents and interests matter, and that the decisions they make today can open doors tomorrow," Dr. Foster said.

Each day of College Week represents a stop along the expedition, encouraging students to move from imagining their futures to identifying concrete steps toward achieving their goals.

- Monday, November 16 – DREAM IT! Discover Your Possibilities. Students begin their expedition by identifying their interests, aspirations, and future possibilities.
- Tuesday, November 17 – EXPLORE IT! Discover Your Pathways. Students investigate college, career, technical, and workforce opportunities while learning about the many routes to success.
- Wednesday, November 18 – PREPARE FOR IT! Build Your Skills. Students focus on the academic, personal, and professional skills needed to pursue their goals.
- Thursday, November 19 – PURSUE IT! Put Your Plan Into Action. Students identify practical steps they can take now to move closer to their desired futures.
- Friday, November 20 – ACHIEVE IT! Celebrate Your Future. The expedition concludes with a celebration of student aspirations, discoveries, and commitments to their next steps.

The expedition concept incorporates the idea of collecting passport stamps as students progress through each day's activities, culminating in Friday's summit, where students celebrate the plans they have developed for their futures.

Faith Arthur, of the district's Student Services Department, emphasized that College Week is intentionally designed to help students see themselves as active participants in shaping their futures.

"Sometimes, the most powerful thing we can do for a student is introduce them to a possibility they never knew existed," Arthur said. "This week is about exploration, exposure, and helping students understand that their future is not something they simply wait for. It is something they can begin preparing for right now. Every student deserves the opportunity to discover a pathway that reflects their strengths, interests, and aspirations," Arthur said.

Beyond the excitement of themed activities, College Week 2026 has a clear districtwide objective: ensuring that students leave the experience with a stronger understanding of their options and a greater sense of ownership over their futures.

The district is encouraging every participating student to accomplish three important goals:

1. Explore at least two future pathways that align with their interests, abilities, or aspirations.
2. Identify at least one skill they can begin developing now to prepare for future success.
3. Commit to one concrete next step that will move them closer to achieving their goals.

By connecting students' dreams to intentional preparation, OCSD seeks to reinforce the importance of academic achievement, career readiness, personal responsibility, and lifelong learning.

College Week also provides opportunities for educators, school counselors, families, and community partners to engage students in meaningful conversations about life after graduation. The district encourages families to continue these conversations at home, helping students understand the importance of exploring opportunities, asking questions, and preparing for the future.

Orangeburg County School District

The mission of Orangeburg County School District, the catalyst of innovation and excellence, is to ensure all students discover and develop their person, purpose, and platform through high-quality educational experiences distinguished by a culture of collaboration, equity, and inclusion; a creative learning environment with inspiring opportunities; a commitment to nurture the academic, physical, social and emotional well-being of all. Visit us online at ocsdsc.org

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