

# Annual Report **2013**



Orange County  
Public Schools





# Orange County Public Schools Annual Report **2013**

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# Letter from Superintendent

To the residents of Orange County:

My first year as your superintendent has been an exciting one. I have enjoyed leading this school district in partnership with an excellent School Board.

Our vision is clear – to become the top producer of successful students in the nation. And our mission stipulates that we will lead our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community.

Everything we do is focused on the success of our students. This annual report provides you with highlights of events and initiatives that started during the 2012-13 school year. There's a lot of good news to share with you. Highlights include:

- **We started the implementation of Common Core State Standards.** The state of Florida has joined 45 states and the District of Columbia to implement Common Core State Standards, which were conceived by the National Governors Association. These are important benchmark standards that have been matched up to the learning standards in other developed nations. They will better prepare our students for college and careers.
- **We are creating digital classrooms.** OCPS has a digital pilot program in seven of our schools during the 2013-14 school year. This means that each student in the seven schools has a digital device. The information we gather from this program will be essential to the implementation of technology throughout the entire school district. Our goal is to be spending at least 75 percent of our textbook dollars on digital learning by 2015.
- **We are renovating and building schools to handle growth and new technology demands.** The 2013-14 school year will be one of our most active construction years as we bring our schools up to the standards of the 21st century classroom. There are many important reasons for us to continue modernizing our schools. Our oldest buildings were not built with today's security needs in mind. Some prove to be a daunting task to wire for Internet and other computer services. As you probably know, some areas have seen substantial growth which demands additional schools.

This year, for the second year in a row, OCPS was included in the College Board's annual AP District Honor Roll. To receive this distinction, a district must prove to the College Board an increase in access to Advanced Placement courses while also increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on the AP exams.

We were also one of only two districts nationwide awarded a site visit by the prestigious Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation. The foundation sponsored a team of education experts to compare OCPS practices with best practices associated with other high-performing urban districts across the country. The findings were positive, and will assist us as we pursue our goals.

Thank you to our parents and community members for supporting Orange County Public Schools. Our success is directly linked to your support and involvement.

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Jenkins



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”  
- Nelson Mandela



Orange County Public Schools



# Strategic plan

The Orange County School Board adopted a strategic plan in 2008 to present county residents with a map of how the district will work to develop successful students.

There have been many advancements in public education since then – among them the adoption of Common Core State Standards, increased standardized testing and the introduction of digital technology into the classroom – but our vision remains clear.

OCPS is committed to becoming the top producer of successful students in the nation. We will fulfill our vision by leading our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community.

## Everything we do falls into one of the five goals outlined in our strategic plan:

- Intense focus on student achievement
- High-performing and dedicated team
- Safe learning and working environment
- Efficient operations
- Sustained community engagement

The 2012-13 academic year was busy and productive. We introduced innovative programs and partnerships, received recognitions for achievements in the education field and committed to careful stewardship of tax dollars. There remains so much more to be done on behalf of our students. We look forward to continuing our mission in the 2013-14 school year.

“Oh, magic hour, when  
a child first knows she  
can read printed words!”  
- Betty Smith



# ★ Intense focus on student achievement

OCPS has continued to develop a network of academic resources that can be tailored to meet individual student needs. The goal is to have our students graduate from high school with the skills that are critical for their next step, whether that is college or a rewarding career.

The 2012-13 year saw many academic achievements. Highlights include:

## Graduation rate/school grades

- ★ Even with higher FCAT passing scores imposed by the Florida Department of Education last year, almost 60 percent of our 184 schools earned an A or B grade. And the graduation rate at the 19 traditional high schools was 86 percent. Both exceed state averages.
- OCPS graduated 90 Super Scholars who gained admittance to the nation's most competitive colleges and universities.

## Nurturing promising students

- ★ OCPS has accelerated its efforts to identify promising students early. The district has instituted universal gifted screening for all second graders at 65 Title I schools. This past year, we identified 183 students at these schools who may be eligible for gifted services.
- ★ Seventh-grade students ranked in the top ten percent of their class were invited to participate in *Orange TIPS*, the district's talent-identification program focused on developing college mindedness in middle-school students. These high-achieving students were encouraged to take the SAT college entrance exam and participate in a summer camp that included visits to local colleges and universities. More than 300 seventh graders took the SAT.
- ★ OCPS continued to administer the PSAT to all ninth and tenth graders to help identify student potential and more accurately assess ability for high-rigor course work that includes honors, Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes.
- ★ The district was named to the College Board's third annual AP District Honor Roll. OCPS was recognized for simultaneously achieving increases in access to Advanced Placement courses for a broader number of students and improving the rate at which students earned scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

## Nurturing our most vulnerable students

- ★ City Year, a national AmeriCorp program, provided full-time targeted intervention for students at risk of dropping

out on five school campuses. They provide in-class tutoring, mentoring, and after-school programs. Eighty-four percent of the students served increased or maintained a high attendance rate.

- ★ The Evans Community School quickly became the place where Pine Hills community members turn their dreams into reality. Six days a week throughout the year, the Community School opens early, closes late and provides after-school activities, health-care services, counseling, tutoring and mentoring, adult-education and community engagement programs.
- ★ Last school year, the Junior Achievement Academy for Leadership and Entrepreneurship opened at Oak Ridge High School. This new magnet teaches leadership and entrepreneurial skills that help students succeed in our country's free-enterprise system. Every one of the 100 enrolled students was assigned an iPad for the year.

## Creating the digital classroom

- ★ The Florida Department of Education has set a goal of one computer for every student within five years.
- OCPS is determined to lead the way into the digital world. The district intends to exceed the 50 percent benchmark set by the state and have 75 percent of state curriculum resources spent on digital curriculum by 2015.
- The district rolled out a pilot program in seven schools that will help determine how best to convert to digital instructional materials. All students received a digital device. The district is testing different devices, four operating systems and various content providers.
- Pilot-program schools: Ocoee High; Pinewood Millennium and Weatherbee elementary schools; and Hunter's Creek, Liberty and Corner Lake middle schools.

## Career-ready diplomas

- ★ OCPS works with local workforce boards, business leaders and post-secondary institutions to improve and develop career path options for students.
- A shining example of this type of program is the Laser Photonics Academy at Wekiva High. The academy is a partnership between OCPS, Valencia College, Northrop Grumman and L3 Communications. The second class recently graduated from this program, and the Academy is branching out into robotics.







## Orange County Public Schools

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**Mission:** To lead our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community.



# High-performing and dedicated team

Orange County Public Schools is committed to pursuing and retaining a high-performing and dedicated workforce. We value our employees and strive to create a work environment that allows them to succeed in their chosen careers.

★ **Dorina Sackman/Westridge Middle** was named OCPs Teacher of the Year. Dorina teaches students who are English Language Learners. She is also a mentor and role model for at-risk youth. Dorina was also selected as the Florida Department of Education/Macy's 2014 Teacher of the Year and serves as the Christa McAuliffe Ambassador for Education, touring the state to spread the word about educational opportunities and challenges in Florida.



★ **Freedom Middle Principal Doug Szcinski** was named 2012 Innovative Principal of the Year. He has made numerous technology improvements, created a mobile app for the school and uses social media for school communications.



★ **Sheryl Scherr/Blankner K-8** was selected as our Support Person of the Year from hundreds of honorees from every OCPs school and department. Sheryl is the school's registrar and acts as the school's liaison with homeless students. She also works with students who are deaf.

★ **Maurice Dragon/Instructional Technology and Library Media**, was selected as an Apple Distinguished Educator. He is one of only two in the state, and only 75 in the country, to receive this distinction. The ADEs are part of a global community of education leaders recognized for their Apple technology expertise in and out of the classroom.

★ **Linda Martin/Palm Lake Elementary** was selected Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the Florida School Counselor Association. She has led the guidance program at the school for 20 years.

★ **Apryle Nickson/Dr. Phillips High** was named North America Coach of the Year by Special Olympics North America. She was recognized for her excellence in coaching the sport of aquatics.

★ **Howard Middle's Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts** received the New and Emerging School Award by the Arts Schools Network. The award is presented to a promising young program in its first three years of development.

★ **Jennifer Bohn/Evans High** was named a Teacher of the Year by *People* magazine. She teaches leadership development and is the coordinator of the school's IB program.



★ **Dr. Bridget Williams/West Area Superintendent** was presented with the Queen Smith Award for commitment to urban education by the Council of Great City Schools and McGraw-Hill. She was recognized for her commitment to students, her community and her church.

★ **Bill Daniel/Boone High** was named InVEST Teacher of the Year by the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America. He has spent the last 15 years educating students in the school's Finance magnet and is committed to developing students with strong financial literacy.

★ **Dr. Angela Murphy-Osborne/Palmetto Elementary** was named OCPs Principal of the Year. She led her former school, Spring Lake Elementary, to becoming one of only six statewide that received the prestigious Title I Distinguished School designation by the Florida Department of Education.



★ **Chief Operations Officer Michael Eugene** received a 2013 C-Level award from the *Orlando Business Journal*. He is responsible for eight departments that provide essential goods and services to students and staff.





# Safe learning and working environment

After a school shooting tragedy in Connecticut, an important dialogue was created between public officials and citizens to ensure that our schools remain safe.

Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Teresa Jacobs and the Orange County Commission, funding was provided to temporarily place additional full-time deputies at elementary schools under county jurisdiction. Each of our middle and high schools already had a full-time law-enforcement presence on campus.

In addition we also conducted a technical review of our school security. The review team consisted of representatives from Orange County Emergency Operations, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Orange County Sheriff's

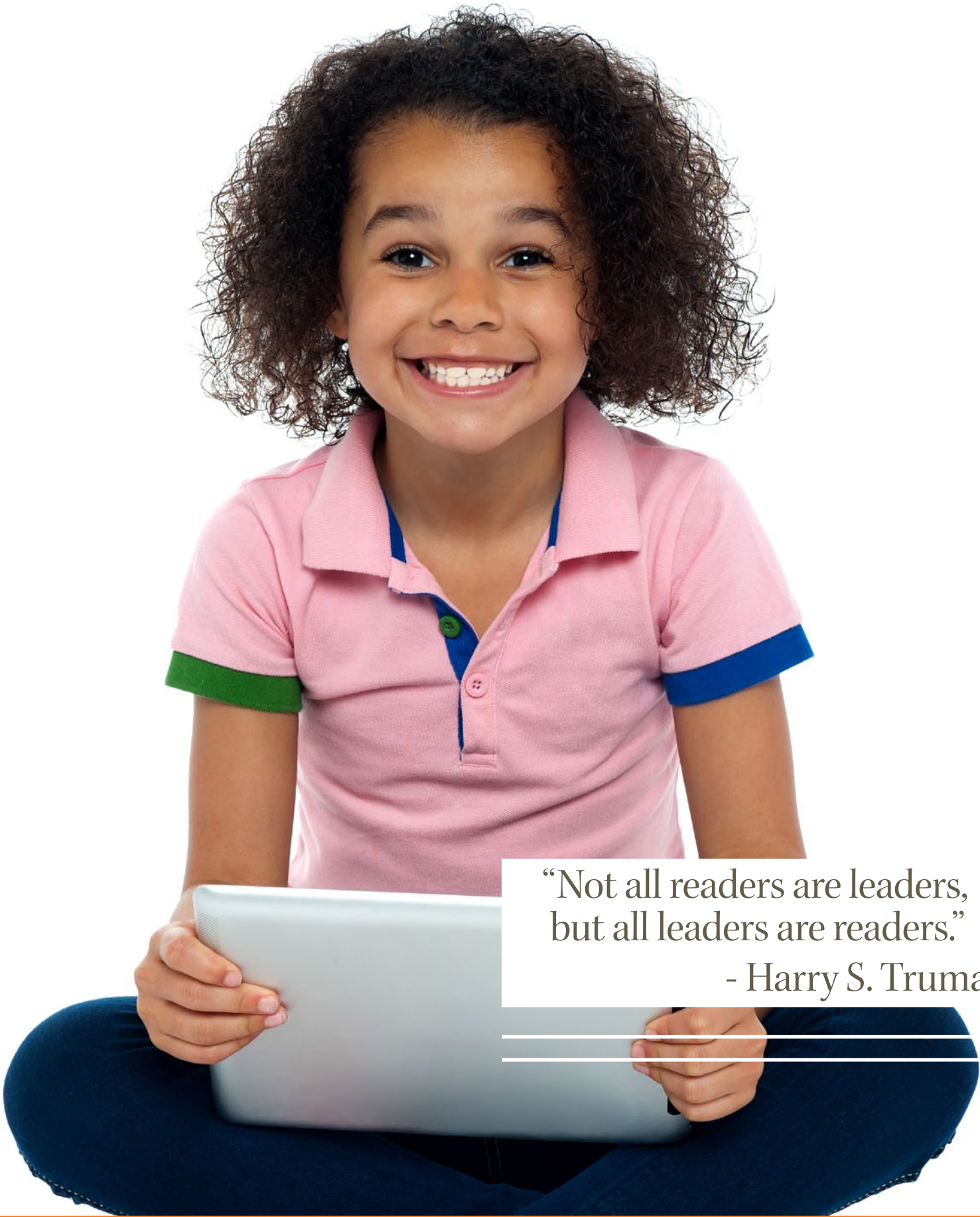
Office, the Orlando Police Department and the Winter Park Police Department. The team conducted site visits at schools and completed an internal assessment of our Safety and Security Services department.

One consistent theme that came from the team's findings is the need to "harden" our schools from outside threats through more perimeter security and enhancements to points of entry, electronic surveillance and communications.

## OCPS is in the process of implementing the following policies and procedures:

- Evaluating and enhancing our physical security applications, including fencing, door locks and lighting at our school facilities.
- Installing emergency alert systems in all school administrative offices.
- Enhance emergency procedures and training for school staff.
- Introduce new visitor-management standards to reduce the number of unauthorized entries into our schools.
- Continue ongoing efforts to reduce the presence of contraband and weapons on campus through increased screening procedures at schools.
- Establish procedures and training for active-assailant incidents to aid school staff in their response.

A safe learning environment is critical to successful learning.



“Not all readers are leaders,  
but all leaders are readers.”  
- Harry S. Truman

Orange County Public Schools





“The future depends  
on what you do today.”  
-Mahatma Gandhi

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# Efficient operations

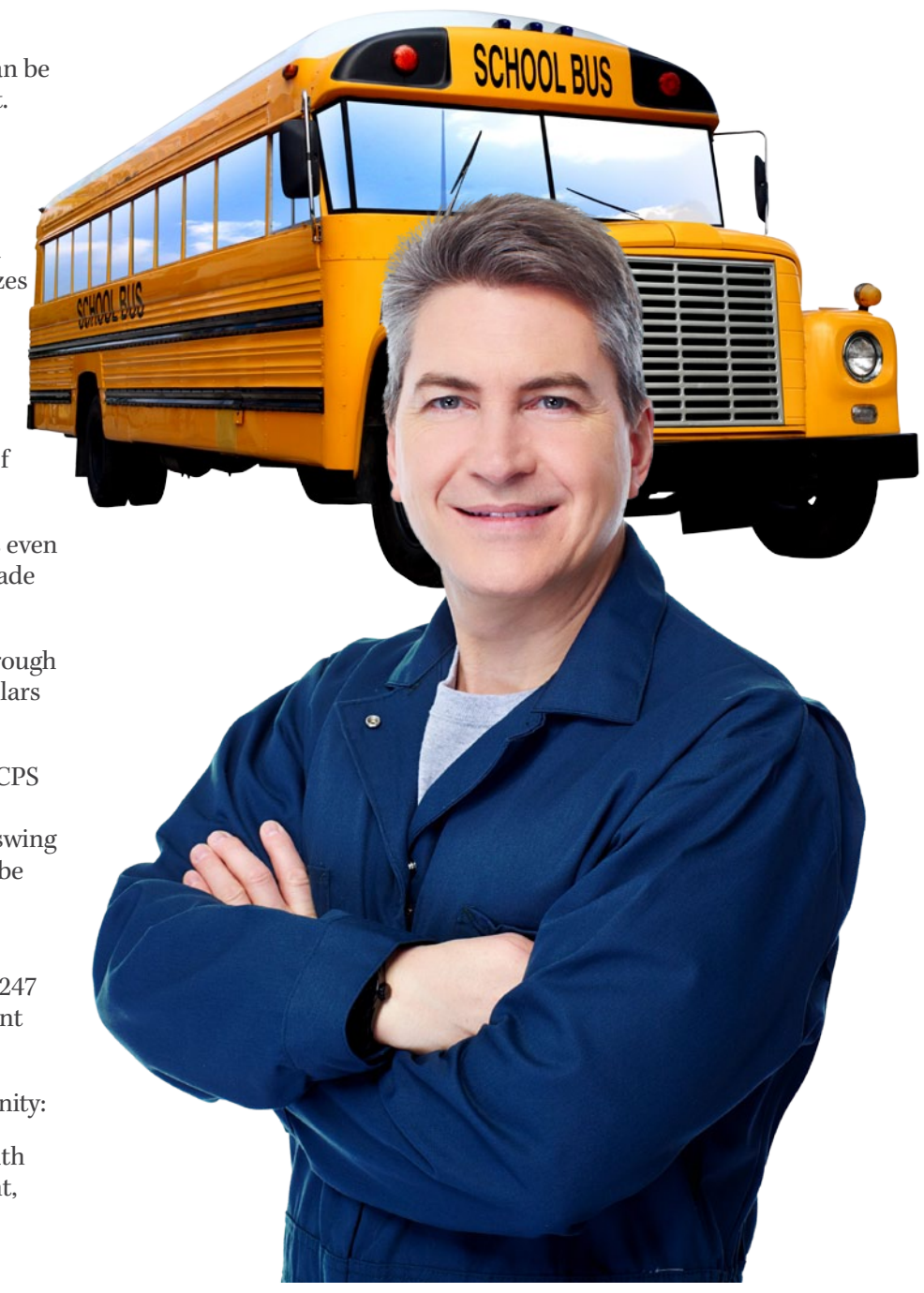
Our Operations division provides essential goods and services to more than 183,000 students and 22,000 employees in more than 200 schools and other facilities. We are the second-largest employer in Central Florida.

Our operations are led with the expectation that every dollar saved through efficiencies and cost reductions can be reinvested into the classroom and student achievement.

## 2013 highlights include the following:

- The Procurement Services staff was presented the Excellence in Public Procurement Award by the Florida Association of Public Procurement. The award recognizes excellence in purchasing practices.
- OCPS received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association and the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Association of School Business Officials.
- The district has maintained its long-term debt ratings even in an adverse economic climate – and received an upgrade from Moody’s rating agency.
- The district has reached \$1,000,000 in funds raised through its sales and marketing initiatives. Advertising sales dollars pay for special projects and public relations efforts.
- The Facilities department is breaking ground on 12 OCPS school construction projects. The department will save more than \$3 million by moving students off-site into “swing schools” during construction. Further cost savings will be realized through the use of efficient prototype designs.
- The district received an “A+” grade to win a “Sunny Award” from the Sunshine Review. OCPS is one of only 247 government sites in the nation with perfectly transparent information for the public.
- We are committed to reinvesting back into our community:
  - 88 percent of construction dollars are contracted with local prime firms, such as construction management, architectural and engineering firms

- The district has partnered with other large U.S. districts to form the Urban School Food Alliance which will use the combined purchasing power to drive down food costs.





# Sustained community engagement

Our community members provide invaluable skills and resources that support our students, both inside and outside the classroom.

Here are some examples:

- 60,435 registered school volunteers
- 2,452 school-business partnerships
- 27,027 PTA/PTSA members in 131 local units

This support for schools has been ongoing and increasing. Notwithstanding this support, this year also saw the introduction of new initiatives that provide opportunities for more businesses and community members to engage with the school district.



## Philanthropic initiative

The school board, superintendent, and Foundation for OCPS concluded that a more strategic philanthropic approach was needed that focused on the needs of all schools and students.

The Philanthropic Strategic Plan was championed by School Board Chair Bill Sublette and identifies unfunded district needs that are critical to accomplishing our vision.

These initiatives are:

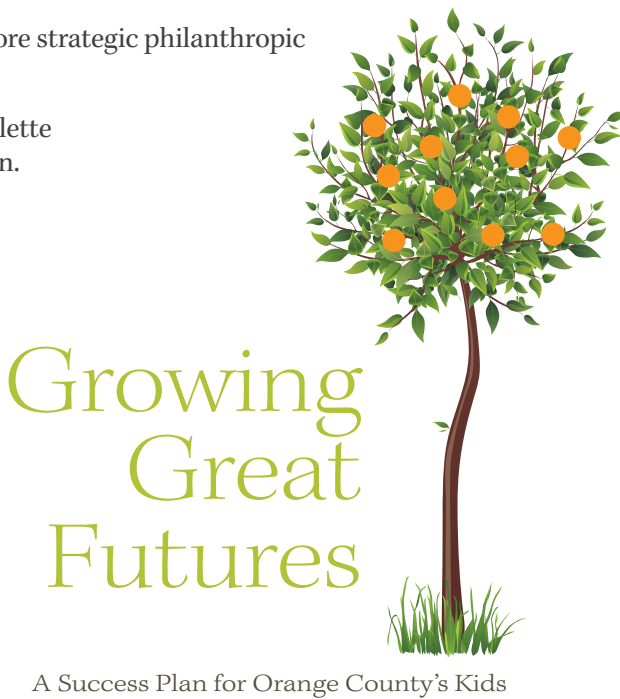
- Expanding full-day pre-kindergarten
- Licensed nurses in every school
- Literacy tutoring for at-risk students
- Expanding literacy mentoring and middle school book clubs
- Access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities
- Bridging the “digital divide”
- Expanding City Year to more schools
- Establishing suspension centers

For more information on these initiatives, please visit [www.philadev.ocps.net](http://www.philadev.ocps.net).

## Faith-based adopt-a-school initiative

For decades, faith-based organizations have been partnering with schools throughout Orange County. This year, Orange County Public Schools is expanding its outreach to faith-based organizations. Our faith-based community is an extremely important part of Orange County Public Schools’ efforts to support sustained community engagement. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and all faith-based organizations have harnessed the power of volunteerism and servant leadership to benefit our students.

Please visit [www.faithbased.ocps.net](http://www.faithbased.ocps.net) for a full list of participating organizations.



“Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”  
- John F. Kennedy



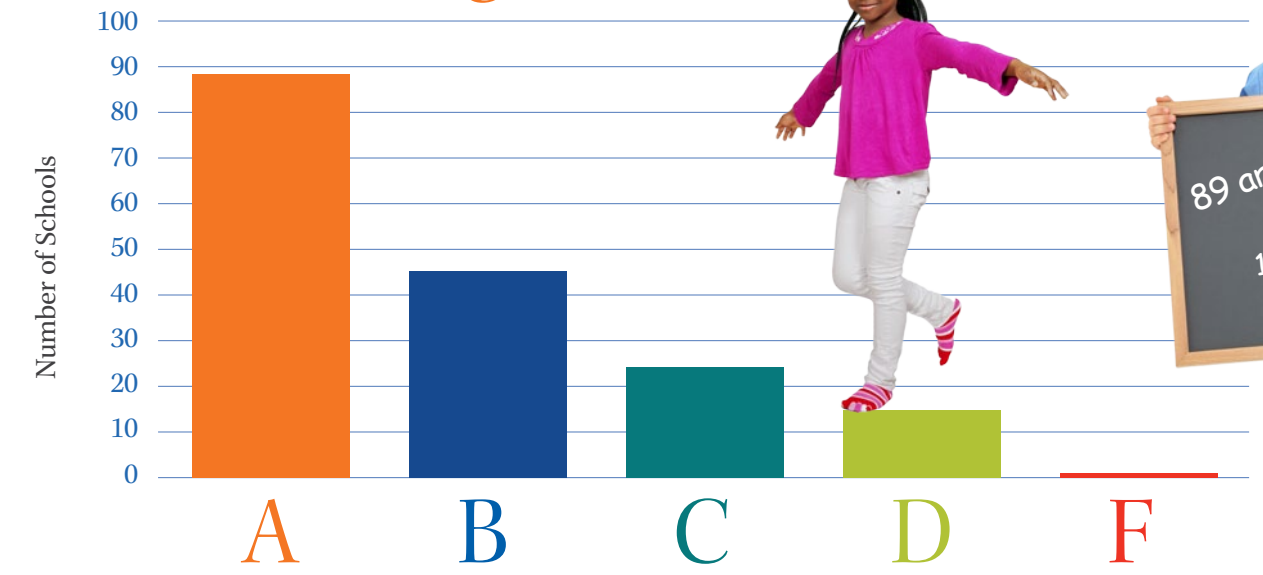


“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”  
-Eleanor Roosevelt

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# 2012 school grades



# 2012-13 student enrollment

Number of Schools Students		
Elementary**	123	81,162
K-8	3	2,914
Middle	35	38,498
High	19	50,037
Exceptional	4	683
Alternative		2,513
Charter		7,755
Total	184	183,562*

\*\*Includes Pre-K  
\*As of Oct. 12, 2012

Student Racial/ Ethnic Distribution*	
White	62%
Black	29%
Asian	5%
Multi-Cultural	3%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1%
Hispanic	35%
Non-Hispanic	65%

\*Federal guidelines for the collection of race and ethnicity information.

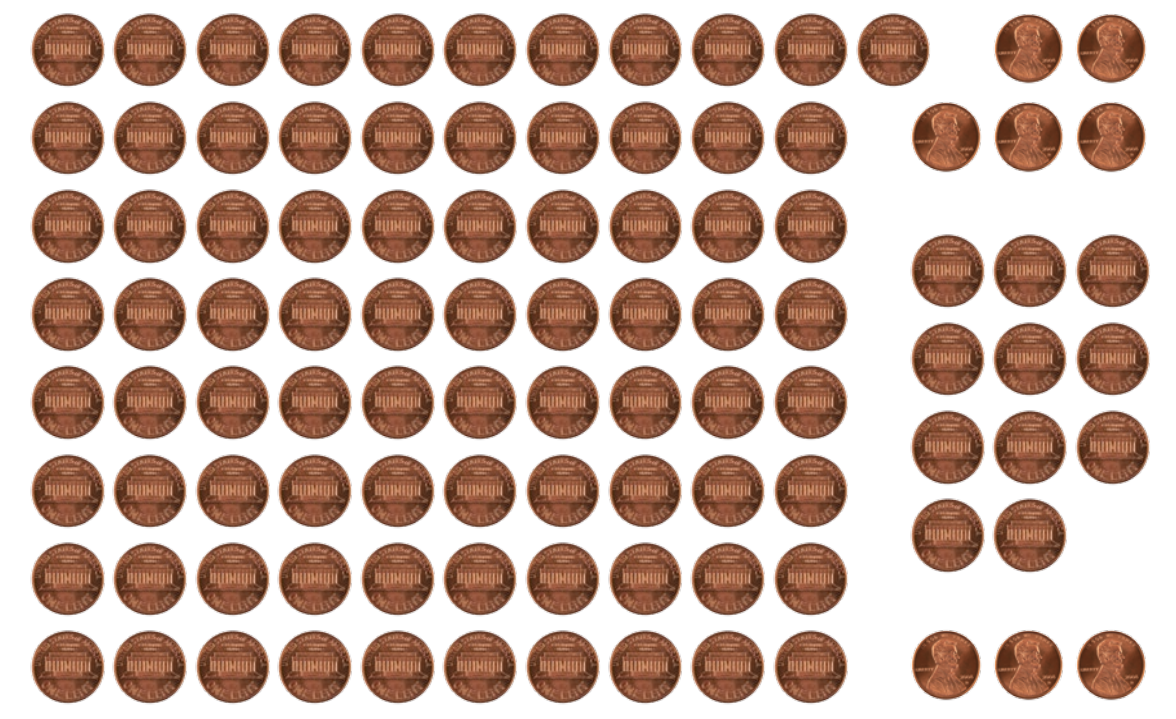
# Where your dollar goes

**81** cents is spent on teaching, transporting, supervising and counseling students.

**5** cents is used for library materials, staff training and curriculum development.

**11** cents goes toward acquiring, operating and maintaining of school facilities.

About **3** cents goes toward central and fiscal services, general administration and district technology.





Everything we do is  
focused on nurturing the  
success of our students.



Chair  
Bill Sublette  
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District 7  
Vice Chair Christine Moore  
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Joie Cadle  
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District 2  
Daryl Flynn  
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District 3  
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“Learning is  
not attained  
by chance, it  
must be sought  
for with ardor  
and diligence.”  
-Abigail Adams



District 4  
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District 6  
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Superintendent  
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Thank you for  
choosing Orange  
County Public  
Schools.



Visit the Orange County Public Schools website  
for more information: [www.ocps.net](http://www.ocps.net)

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