

Superintendent's Report Orange Public Schools “Good to Great”

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
“The Teaching Superintendent”

January 10, 2024

Focus Core Area Numbers 1- 4
District Goal Number 1-4 and All Sub Sections





Scholarships Update

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Focus Core Area Numbers 1 & 2
District Goal Number 1&4 and All Sub Sections



Scholarship Update as of January 5, 2024

- This week, I requested scholarship totals for the Orange High School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges. As shared previously, I will report out on scholarships, so the community and Board of Education are very much aware of information in real time.
- OHS - \$4,317,500
- STEM - \$4,195,280
- Total: \$8,512,780.00

Congratulations thus far to the Class of 2024 as well as our guidance, instructional, and administrative staff members for working so diligently with our scholars.

Last year, we amassed over 35 million dollars in scholarships district wide. We are well on our way....More to come!

Celebration of Our Board Member

January is Board Member Recognition Month



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Thank you to our Board of Education Members

- Citing the meaningful contributions that boards of education make to public education and to the quality of life in New Jersey, Gov. Phil Murphy proclaimed January 2021 as School Board Recognition Month in New Jersey. Guess what, we are in January, and it is important that we give thanks to our board of education.
- “New Jersey’s 5,000 local board of education members devote countless hours, without remuneration, to the oversight of school district operations, including finances, policy, curriculum and staffing,” the governor said. “New Jersey’s local boards of education endeavor to meet the challenges facing public schools and to help students attain the education necessary to excel in college and in the workplace and to enable them to compete in a global economy.”

Thank you
to our
Board of
Education
Members

- “By making meaningful contributions to public education, the dedicated members of local school boards have greatly enhanced the quality of life in our State,” the governor’s proclamation said.
- “The state’s local boards of education set the goals and provide oversight for the entire school district,” explained Michael McClure, president of the New Jersey School Boards Association. “The hard work and dedication of school boards have a direct impact on the classroom, and their efforts have helped make New Jersey’s public schools a national leader in student achievement.”

Thank you to our Board of Education Members

- “No other public official, elected or appointed, has a greater impact on the lives of children than the local school board member,” said Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod, NJSBA executive director. “This year, boards of education in New Jersey overcame unimaginable challenges in continuing to provide instruction to students during the pandemic.”

We Salute our Board of Education Members

Board of Education Member SY 2023-24

- Mr. Armstrong
- Ms. Crockett
- Ms. Gravesande
- Mr. Henry

Board of Education Member SY 2023-24

- Ms. Johnson
- Mr. Sherif
- Mr. Tarver
- Dr. Turner
- Mr. Wingfield

Celebration of Students

Student of the Month Announcement

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Students of the Month
December 2023
Congratulations to our STAR Students!

Name of School	Student of the Month
Central Elementary School	Austin Lema
Cleveland Street School	Teranique Williams
Forest Street Community School	Emily Ramos Lopez
Heywood Avenue School	Cali-Lynn Clark
Lincoln Avenue School	Janaye Morocho
Oakwood Avenue Community School	Sabella Jones

Name of School	Student of the Month
Orange High School	Oluwatobi Etuk
Orange Preparatory Academy	Ramatulai Sherif
Park Avenue School	Mack Allen Desna
Rosa Parks Community School	Paola Morocho
STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	Farah Mostak
The Twilight Program	Andy Mingo-Morocho

A Few Reminders

- The Orange School District will be closed from Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday.
- Schools and the district office will reopen on Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

A Few Reminders

- Please check out our social media as well as district website for the most up to date information about the Orange School District.
- Utilize reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us as the forum to ask your questions. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response.
- Preschool Registration for the 2023-2024 school year will take place on January 23rd and January 30th from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, at the Orange Early Childhood Center, 397 Park Avenue. Visit orange.k12.nj.us/domain/528 for more information, and email prekindergartenregistration@orange.k12.nj.us with any questions.

New Jersey Seal of Biliteracy

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NJ Seal of Biliteracy

- The New Jersey State Seal of Biliteracy is an award given by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) in recognition of students who have studied and attained proficiency in at least one language in addition to English by high school graduation. The NJDOE, pursuant to [P.L. 2015, c. 303](#) enacted by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, established the State Seal of Biliteracy program in 2016 to help students recognize the value and the tangible benefits of bilingualism. Since its inception, a total 39,008 Seals of Biliteracy have been awarded. This designation on a student's high school diploma also provides employers and universities with a method of identifying bilingual candidates, students with 21st century skills, and those who have prioritized the study of other languages and cultures. Moreover, the State Seal of Biliteracy emphasizes the importance of both bilingualism, which facilitates improved communication and boosts the local economy, and cultural understanding, which promotes social acceptance.

Seal of Biliteracy Results SY 22-23 and 23-24

- **OHS**
- 16 (2022/2023) - 29 students (2023/2024)
- **STEM**
- 11(2022/2023) - 8 Students (2023/2024)
- **Twilight**
- 1 (2022/2023) - 3 Students (2023/2024)
- **Total - OPS**
- 28 (2022/2023) - 40 Students (2023/2024)

The Orange Public Schools Facilities Update



Mr. Edwin Vasquez
Manager of Buildings and Grounds
January 10, 2024
Focus Core Area Number 1-4
District Goal Number 3

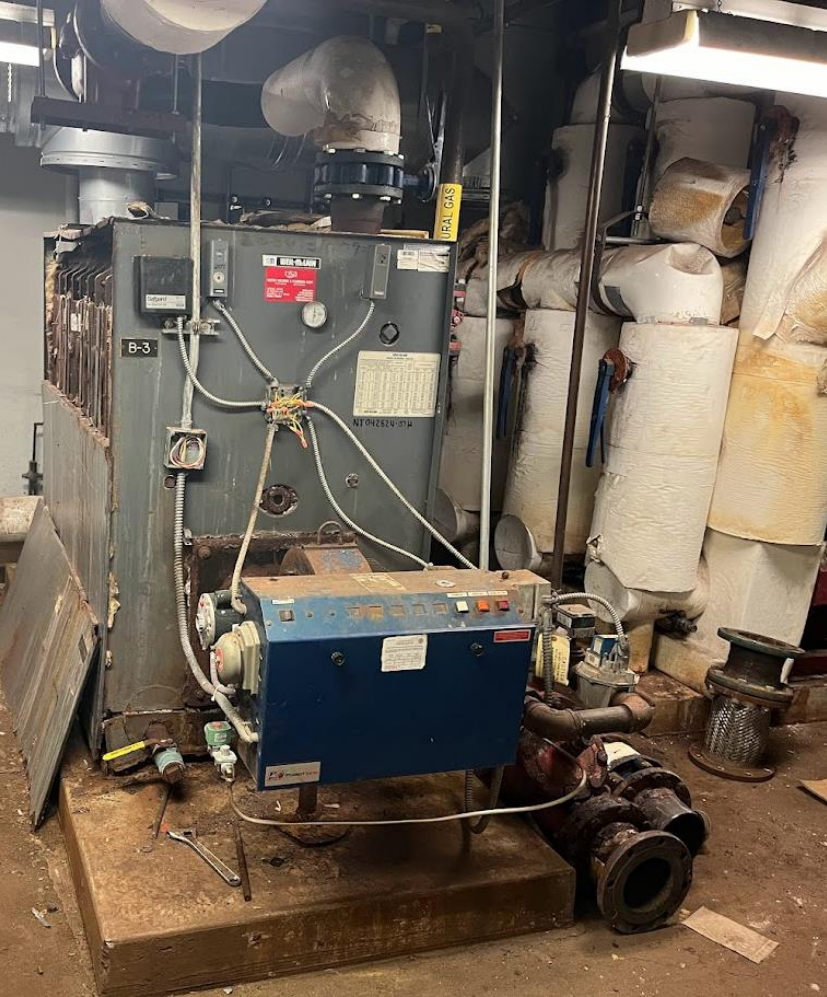
The background of the slide is a photograph of a school hallway. On the left and right sides, there are rows of red metal lockers. In the upper left corner, a round analog clock is visible on the wall. The hallway has a tiled floor and fluorescent lighting fixtures on the ceiling. The entire image is dimmed to serve as a background for the text.

District Facility Maintenance & Custodial Services Updates

-
- **Thorough cleaning and disinfecting occurs daily for of all touch points in the building (examples include but are not limited to door handles, bathrooms, entrances, exits, and handrails)**
 - **Walk-throughs of all district school facilities**
 - **Meetings between the District and PCI are held regularly based on updates related to COVID-19 mandates and expectations**
 - **Facility projects continue so we can ensure a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff.**

Orange Board of Education Project Updates

In November and December we were focused on maintaining and upgrading our boiler systems. We carried out repairs, as well as replacing old boilers with new ones. At Rosa Parks Community School, we have started removing the old boiler system and installing a new one. Since the building has three boilers, we will replace them one at a time to ensure the building continues to receive heat throughout the process. The following slides will showcase the ongoing work and progress being made.



Rosa Parks Community School

OLD BOILERS



Rosa Parks Community School

- An old boiler was removed and a new one is currently being installed.

Oakwood Avenue Community School

- The administration at Oakwood Avenue Community School identified a pressing need to replace the fence around the building. The facilities team conducted a thorough inspection and found that the current fence was in a state of disrepair and no longer fit for purpose. As such, a complete replacement is deemed necessary to ensure the safety and security of the school's premises. The next few slides will display the work that was completed.



Oakwood Avenue Community School

OLD FENCE BEING REMOVED



Oakwood Avenue Community School

NEW FENCE BEING INSTALLED



Oakwood Ave Community School

Orange High School

- The Facilities Department, in collaboration with the Orange High School Athletic Department, undertook a renovation project to revamp the Orange High Gymnasium, giving it a fresh new appearance. The refurbished facility boasts a modernized look focusing on functionality and aesthetics. The following few slides will showcase the work that was done.



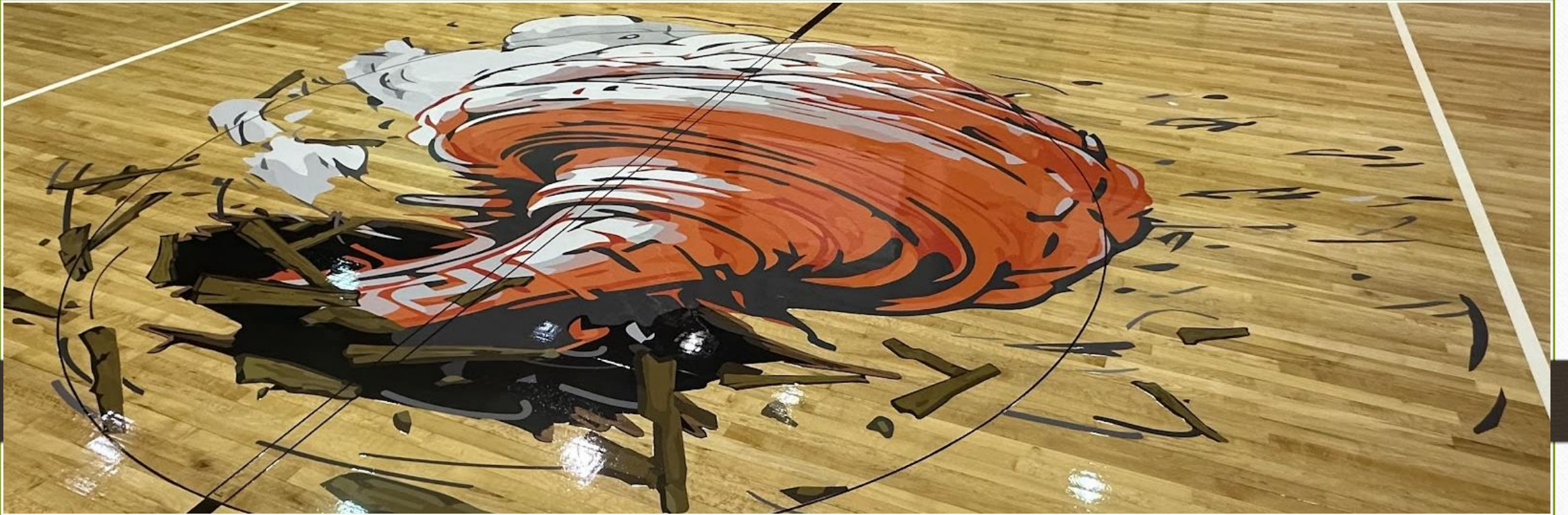
Orange High School



Orange High School



Orange High School



Orange High School



Orange High School

Orange Board of Education

- Work orders are being entered into Brightly (work order reporting system), from classroom lights being out to steam pipes breaking. The team and I, under the guidance of Mr. Ballard, will continue to address all issues as they are entered into the system. In doing so, we can ensure that we have a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff.

In the Month of January 2024

- The team and I, under the direction of Mr. Ballard, will continue to meet with the Schools Development Authority and Terminal Construction to make sure that there is progress related to the Construction at the Orange High School Punch-list items and the Cleveland Street School Project.

Reminder from the Office of Facilities

- We will continue to update the community, staff, and Board of Education members of all progress.
- The health and safety of staff and students are at the apex of all facilities undertakings.

Attendance Presentation from the Month of December 2023



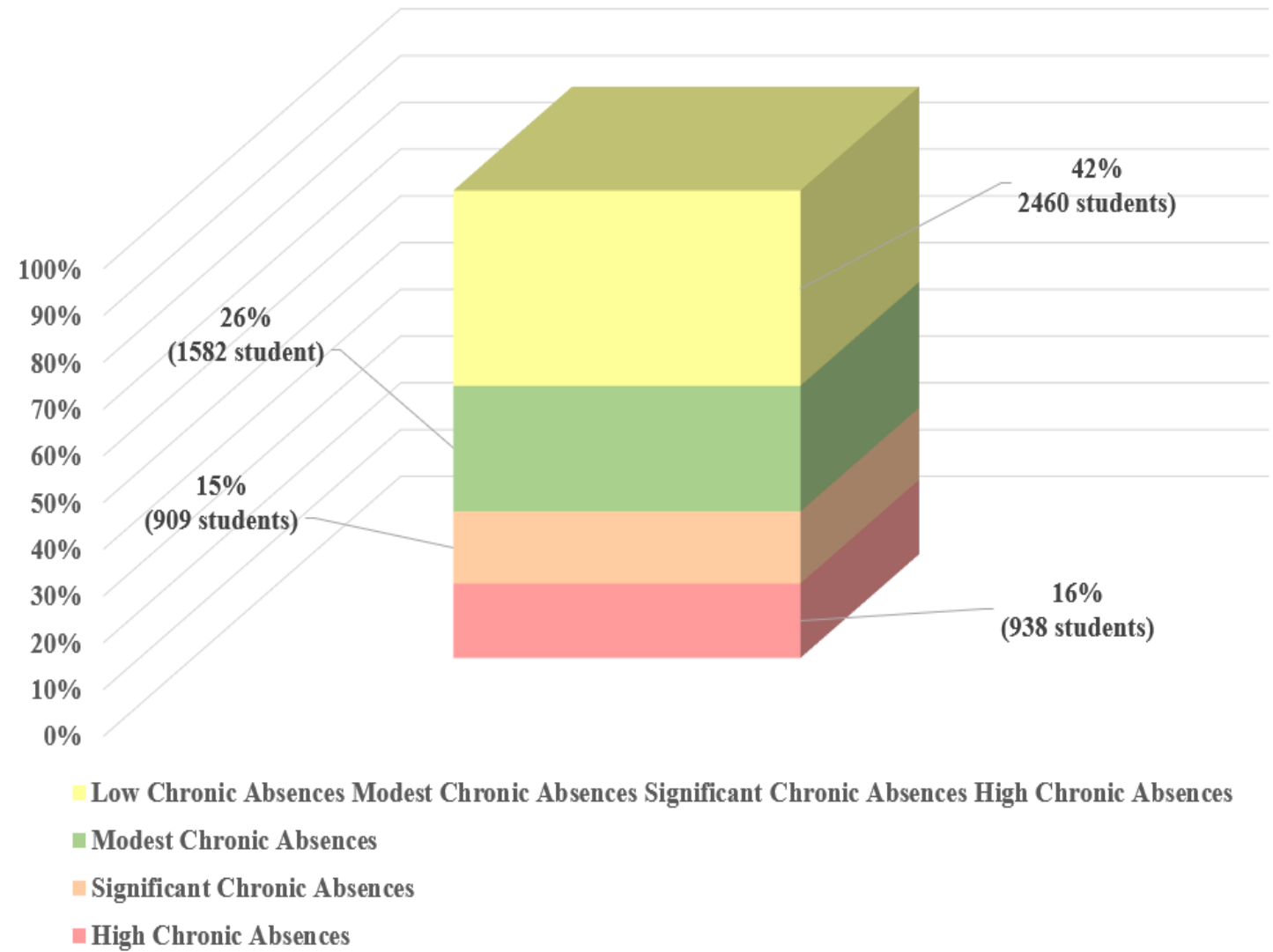
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Chronically
Absence
Categories
are Identified
As:

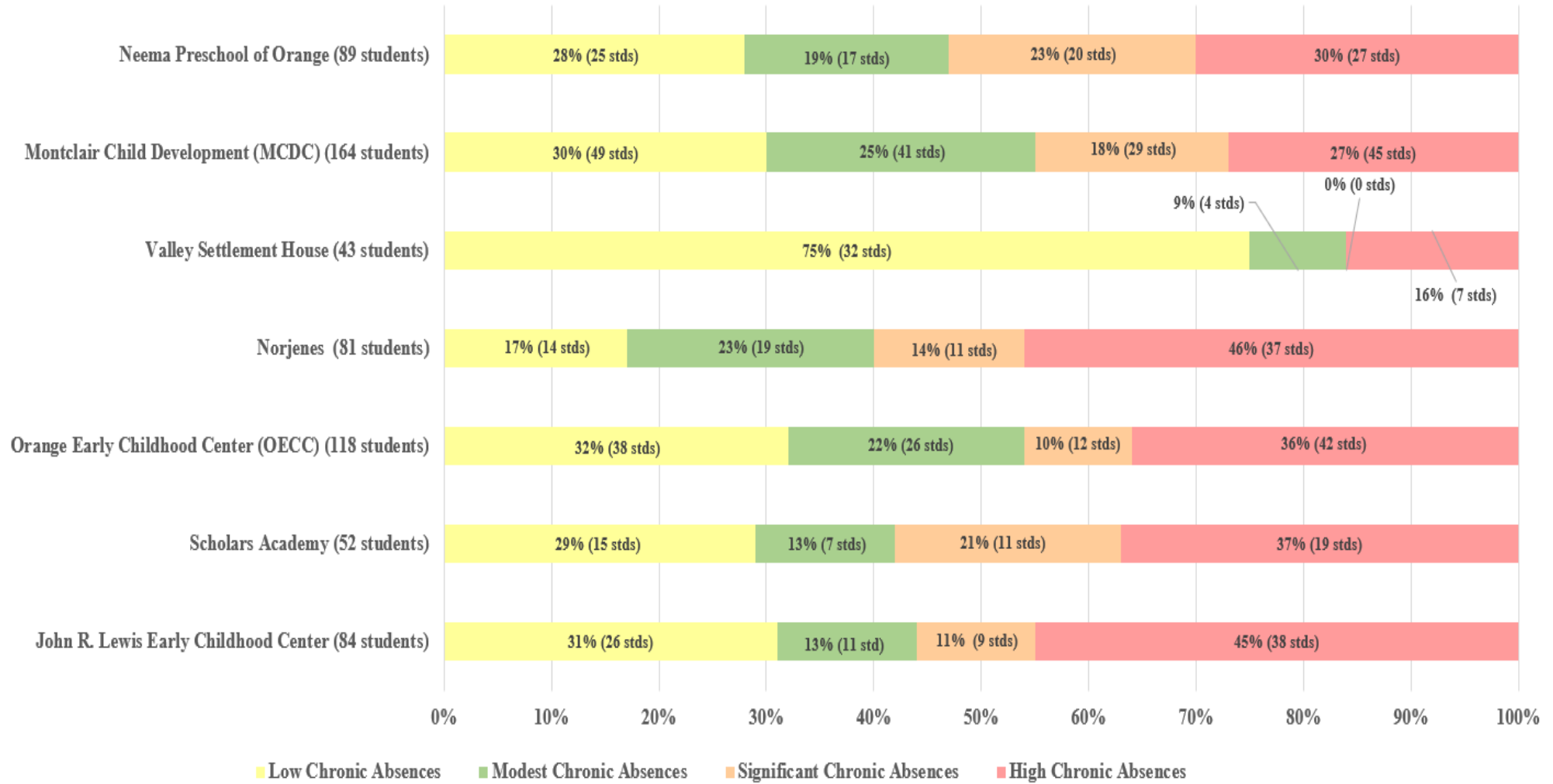
Absences Category	Cumulative Days Absent for the Month of December 2023
Low Chronic Absences	0 to 2.99 days
Modest Chronic Absences	3 to 4.99 days
Significant Chronic Absences	5 to 6.99 days
High Chronic Absences	7 days or more

*Students are chronically absent when excused or unexcused absences are equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days enrolled in the school year.

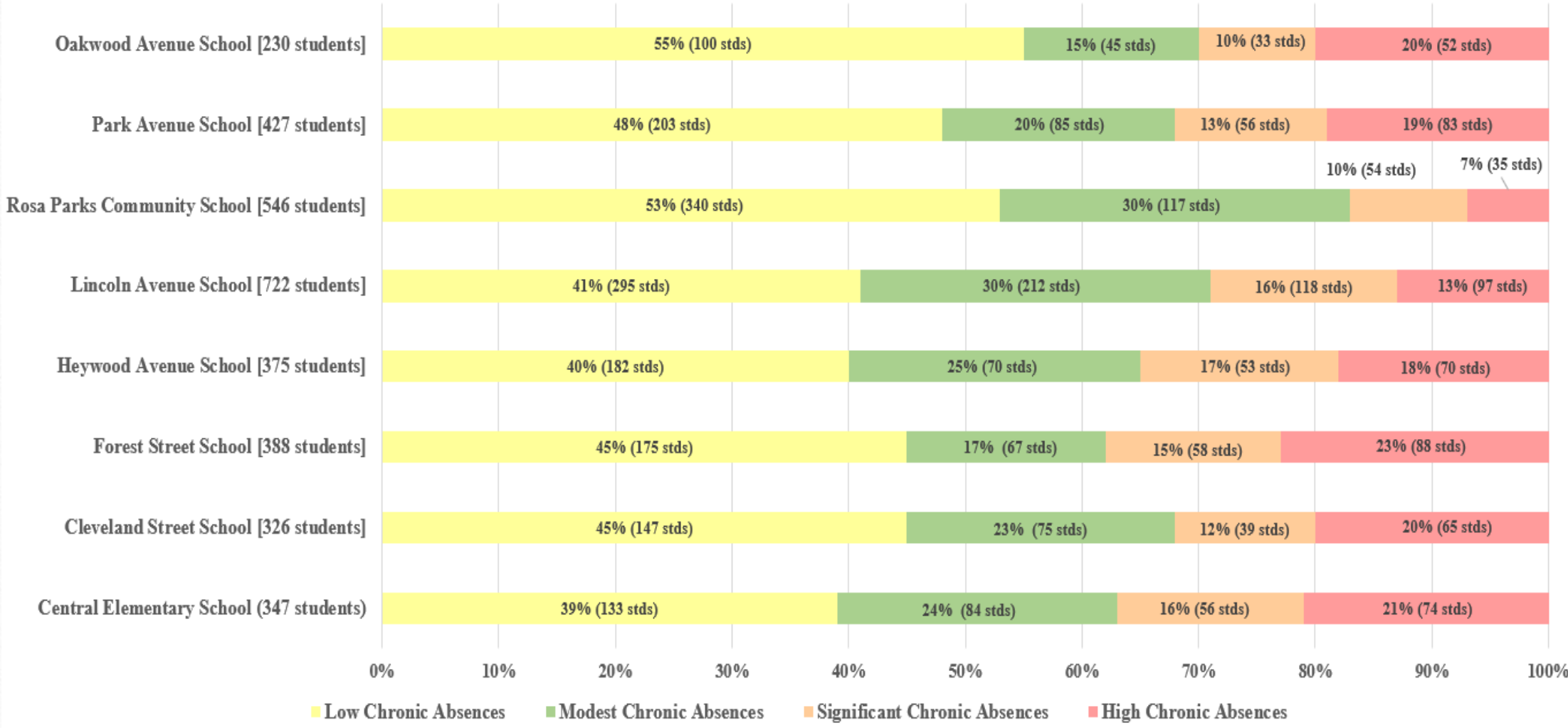
Cumulative Absences for the Month of December by Category



Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of December Early Childhood Program



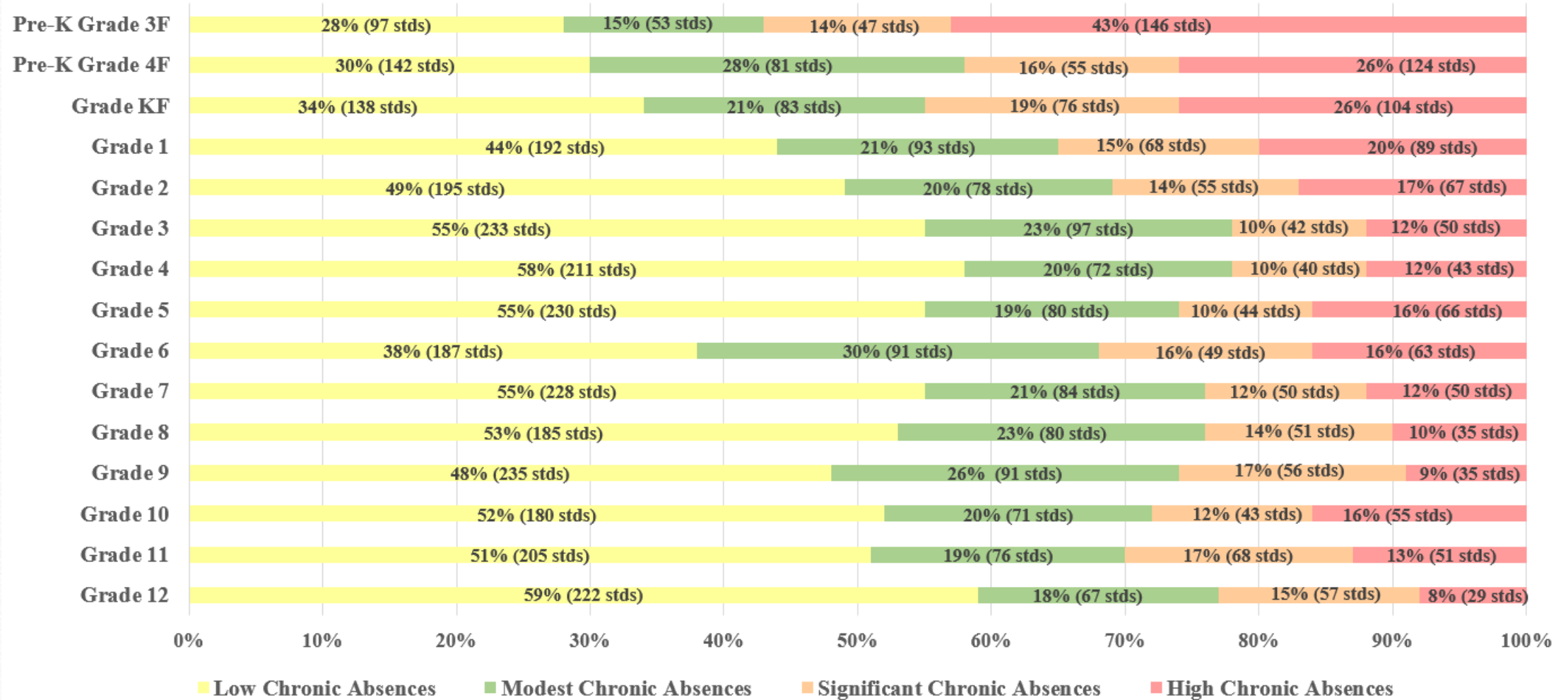
Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of December Kindergarten through Grade 7



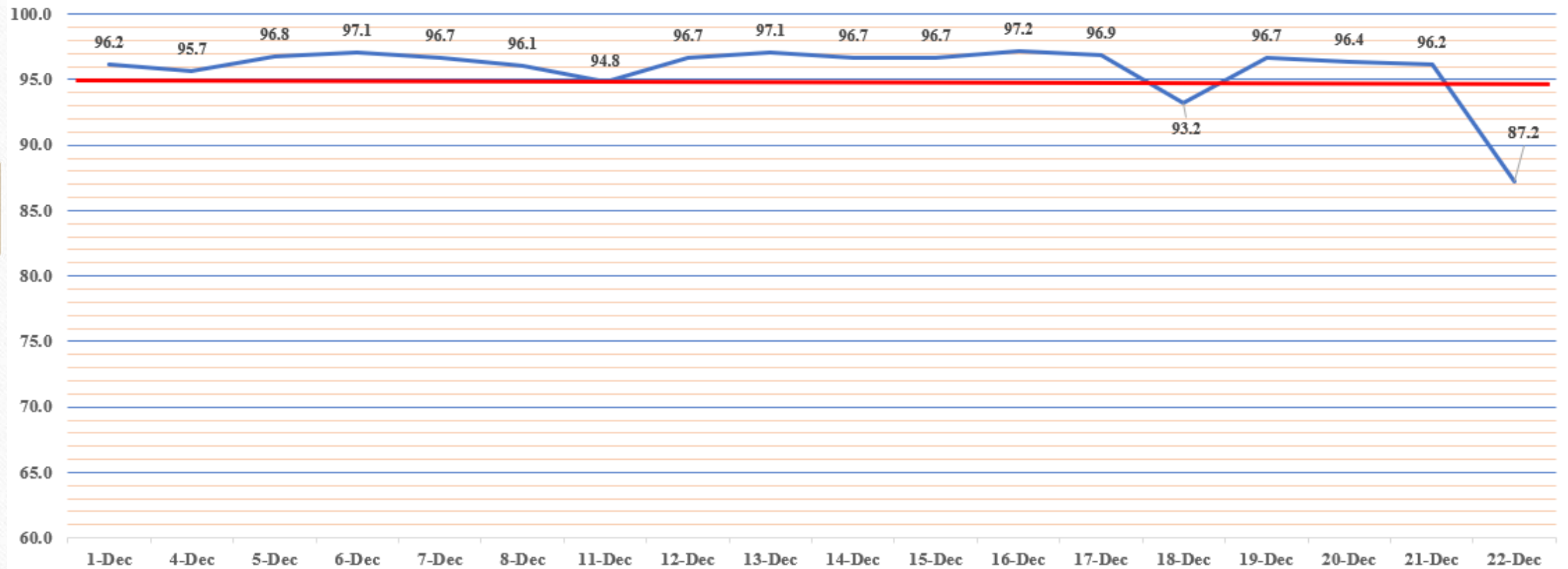
Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of December Grades 8 through 12



Cumulative Absences for the Month of December by Grade Level



December 2023
Average Daily Attendance Percentages
***State Average is 95%**
District Average Daily Attendance was 96%



Orange Public Schools Social Media





Social Media Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat

#MovingintoGreatness

#OrangeStrong

Follow us:

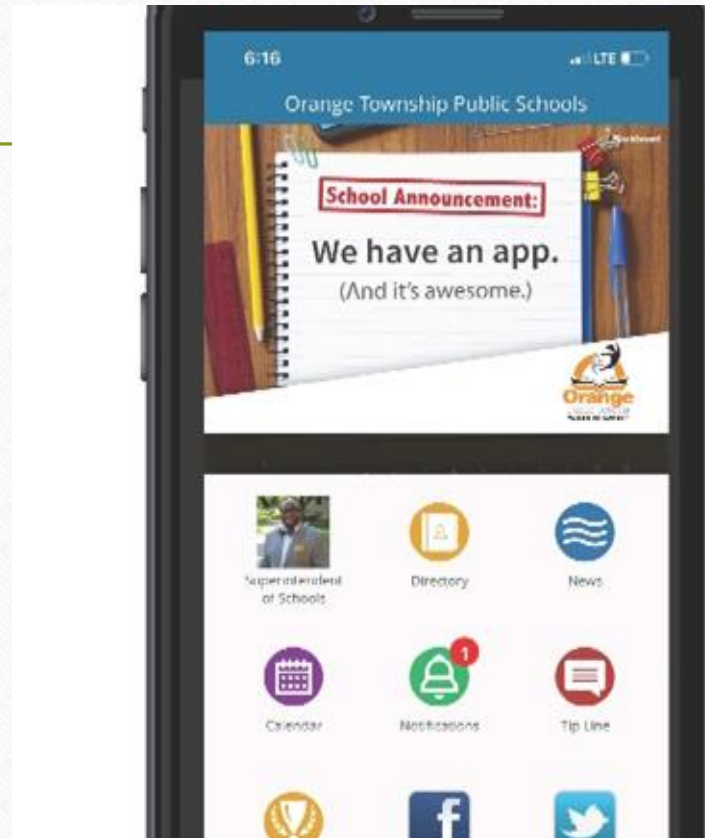
-  - Orange Public School District
-  - @ops_district
-  - opsdistrict
-  - Orange Public School District



Reminder: The Orange App

Have you signed up?

You know I am sending blasts out for folks to sign up...Stay Tuned



Available for Apple and Android devices.

The app is **FREE** and available for **download today. You are encouraged to sign up.**

Download the new app in 3 easy steps:

1. On your smartphone, go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®
2. Search **Orange Public Schools**
3. Then select our **Orange Public Schools** app for free