

Orange Public Schools Annual Report 2014-15



Innovation



Learning



Achievement



Message from Board President Cristina Mateo

Dear Orange School Families and Community Members:

I am honored to assume the role of President of the Orange Board of Education for this school year. I am an Orange High School graduate who knows the value of a strong public school education, and I am proud to serve during a time when we have elevated the district's accomplishments and student academic achievement.

During the 2014-2015 school year, our dedicated board members worked closely with the Superintendent of Schools and his administration in support of the district's educational vision and values. We saw our high school students graduate in record numbers, the expansion of our Community Schools, community engagement initiatives and the development of the district's Strategic Plan 2014-2021. We have fostered a strong working relationship with our district leadership, representing the Orange citizenry, and we are committed to providing a quality 21st Century education for the children in Orange.

I congratulate the staff and students for putting forth an effort to strengthen the educational system in the community of Orange.

Cristina Mateo



Message from Superintendent of Schools Ronald C. Lee

Dear Students, Parents and Community Members:

It is with pleasure that I present the 2014-2015 Orange Township Public School District Annual Report. During the school year, the district made notable accomplishments in the areas of student achievement, innovative school initiatives and philanthropic support to benefit the students, staff, and the Orange community. We completed an ambitious two-year review process and received Middle States Accreditation for every school in the district. We also engaged our parents and guardians by launching the Parent Academy and brought together our stakeholders to outline a strategic roadmap for the district over the next seven years.

We are continuing our quest to offer higher level programs to our students. The district has been recognized for our progressive Early Childhood Education program, as well as our Scholars Academy, which supports the exceptional talents of our elementary and middle school students, and for improved academics through more Advanced Placement (AP) class offerings at the high school level. Our student body of approximately 5,600 is provided with a comprehensive, rigorous curriculum and extracurricular activities that comply with state standards and has set the district on the path to an outstanding public education environment.

Some of the aforementioned achievements are indicative of the astonishing growth realized at the high school level. Over the past several years, more high school students are graduating, attending college and receiving scholarship awards. In June 2015, our high school graduation rate was up from 58.3 percent in 2011 to 86.6 percent, and our graduates received more than \$6 million in scholarships and awards in the pursuit of higher education.

We note these accomplishments, while doing more with less. We have operated with a relatively flat-funded budget for the past three years, while maintaining high fiscal principles, upholding higher classroom standards, avoiding program reductions and maintaining facilities.

We thank students, staff, school board members, parents, city officials and other members of the community for their support during this past school year, as we strive together to make Orange a world class public school district.

Ronald C. Lee



The Orange Board of Education Vision and Mission Statement

Table of Contents

Mission Statement	3
District Overview	4
Initiatives/Accomplishments	5
Curriculum and Instruction	6
Staff and Professional Development	8
Standardized Tests	8
Budget and Grants	10
Student Programs/Recognition	12
Student Awards/Accomplishments	13
Extracurricular Activities	14
District Schools	15

Vision

The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. We pledge to prepare all students with equitable opportunities for college and career readiness, leading to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a competitive global community.

Mission

- The Orange Public School District, in collaboration with all stakeholders, is responsible for promoting the academic, social, emotional and personal success of all students.
- With a commitment to academic excellence, the district provides teachers, families, and administrators the tools needed for all students to reach their full potential.
- The district serves all students in our schools, acknowledging their unique backgrounds, cultural perspectives and learning styles.
- The district recognizes that curiosity, discipline, integrity, responsibility and respect are necessary for success.
- The Orange Public School District cultivates a community of 21st century learners where students take ownership of the learning process, achieve high standards of excellence, and focus on academics.

No Alibis, No Exceptions, No Excuses!



District Overview

The Orange Public School District provides a holistic approach to education through a rigorous curriculum, along with extracurricular activities such as robotics, bridge, visual and performing arts, academic competitions and athletics. Our curriculum is aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

The district has approximately 5,600 students, and more than 875 staff members.

The district encompasses:

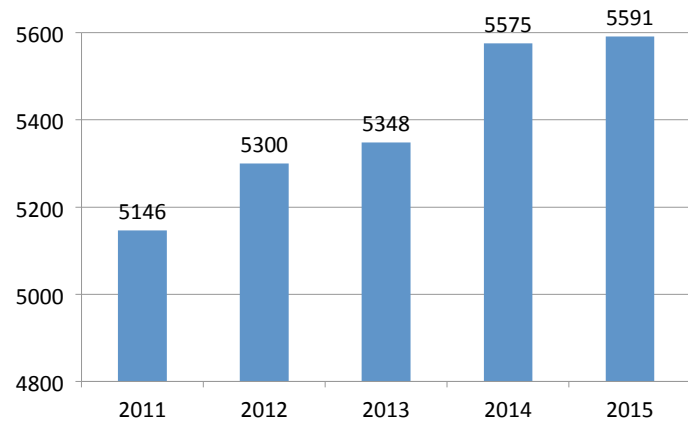
- Two Early Childhood Centers
- Six community-based Pre-K facilities
- Three K-7 and four Pre-K-7 elementary schools
- One Grade 8-9 academy
- One Grade 10-12 high school
- One Grade 9-12 alternative high school
- One Grade K-8 academy for gifted students

The school district serves a diverse ethnic population that includes students from various African, Caribbean and Latin American countries. The student body is 69 percent Black/African American and approximately 29 percent Hispanic. District data indicate that 16 percent of students are foreign-born, 67.5 percent of the Hispanic population speaks Spanish at home and 7 percent of the student population speaks Haitian Creole at home.

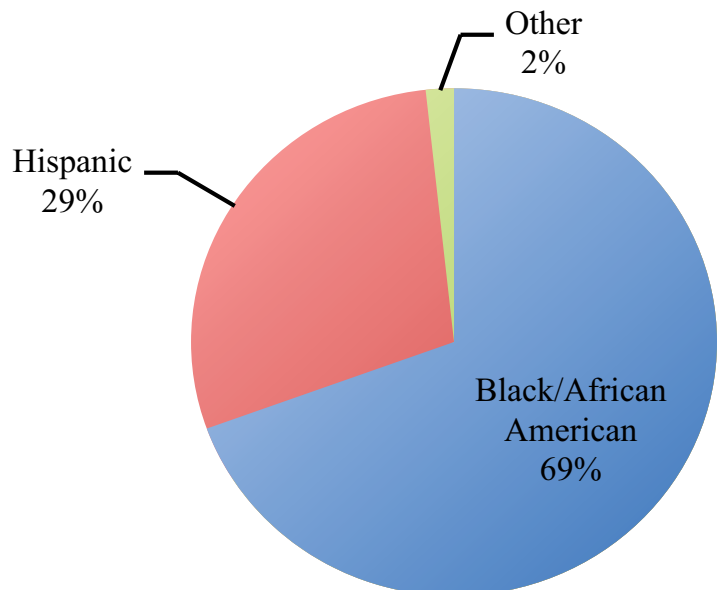
The Orange Public School District has a highly qualified staff. There are 599 certified staff members and administrators, of which 46 percent hold a Doctorate or Master's degree. The district currently employs 5 staff members who have earned their National Board Certification. The majority of the district's administrators and instructional staff have 2-10 years of service.



In-District Enrollment (including Pre-K)



District Demographics

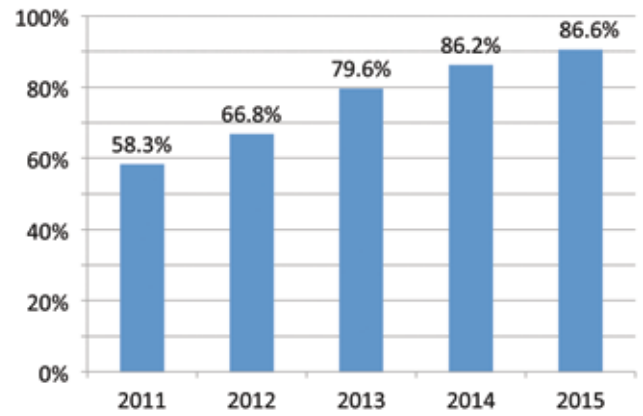


Initiatives and Major Accomplishments

During the 2014-2015 school year, the district was cited for several noteworthy achievements, received three significant grants and offered several unique programs for students, as follows:

- High School Graduation rates have risen from 58.3 percent in 2011 to 86.6 percent in 2015.
- The Orange High School (OHS) graduating class of 2015 received \$6 million in scholarships, more than the prior four graduating classes combined.
- OHS was named one of 547 districts in the U.S. and Canada to be placed on the College Board's 5th Annual AP District Honor Roll for significant gains in student access and success.
- OHS earned the distinction of being the only school in Essex County to be removed from the NJ Department of Education list of schools in need of improvement.
- The district completed a two-year process for Middle States Accreditation. The district received accreditation for all 11 of its schools.
- The district completed its seven-year Strategic Plan for the years 2014-2021, with input from Orange Public Schools' stakeholder groups, including parents, students, faculty, administrators, alumni, Board Members, and members of the community. More than 110 individuals participated in the development of the Strategic Plan.
- Through collaboration with Montclair State University and other partners, the district received a five-year \$2.5 million grant to support the Community School Initiative. The Community School model has been implemented at Rosa Parks Community School, since 2009, and Oakwood Avenue Community School, since 2013.
- The district was notified in July 2015 that it was the recipient of two additional grants. It received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Jersey Health Initiative four-year grant for \$200,000, to help build a healthier Orange, and the 21st Century Grant for \$2.5 million, over the next five years, for after school programs and out-of-school experiences.
- The district launched the Orange Adult School, offering courses in English as a Second Language (ESL) for adults, High School Proficiency preparation, citizenship, parenting skills, technology and more.
- The district's first school-based pediatric health clinic was opened at Oakwood Avenue Community School. The pediatric clinic operates during the school day, serving Oakwood students and their school-aged siblings. Full-service dentistry, optometry and behavioral health are also offered.
- At the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, the district launched the Parent Academy, consisting of parents from each school, with approximately 40 participants and 14 graduates.
- To support the state's new mandated Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), 10 parent training sessions in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole were held to fully inform parents about the assessment.
- Forest Street School opened its Ecology Center and Greenhouse to hold outdoor classrooms for students.
- Microsociety was launched at Forest Street School and Oakwood Avenue Community School. This program transforms the school into a microcosm of a real-world town. The governance of the town, complete with an elected mayor and city council, is directed by students. Students self-select their roles as lawyers, doctors, merchants, actors, police officers and other leaders of a thriving community. It's real life learning at its best.

District 4-Year Graduation Rates



Curriculum and Instruction



The Department of Curriculum and Instruction continued the revision of grades K-12 curriculum to strengthen content areas and provide greater college and career readiness, reorganizing district supervisory staff to support grade clusters in Math, Science and English Language Arts.

The Department of Education's New Jersey Standards Measurement and Resource for Teaching (NJ SMART) is a comprehensive statewide longitudinal data system solution that serves multiple purposes: staff/student identification, data warehousing, data reporting, and analytics. To meet these standards for curriculum, the district analyzed student data to develop goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely.

Utilizing the findings of the school and district data teams, the following were areas of focus for the 2014-15 school year:

- English Language Arts teachers continued to implement best practices in reading and writing (with particular emphasis on text-dependent questions and Lucy Caulkin's Units of Study); implemented the Common Core State Standards through Read 180, System 44, iRead, Journeys, and Prentice Hall Literature; and implemented a "zero" period for targeted 8th and 9th grade students along with Parent Literacy Nights and a K-12 Publishing Party.
- Mathematics teachers continued to incorporate the mathematical practices outlined in the Common Core State Standards, implementing the new K-5 programs Go Math and Math in Focus, the new Algebra I program Agile Mind, and Parent Math Nights to increase student achievement.
- ESL, Special Education (SE), and Limited English Proficiency (LEP) teachers continued to increase differentiation of materials and instruction based on district unit, benchmark assessments and state assessments. Further, teachers increased implementation of Sheltered English, Read 180, System 44, iRead, and Readorium. Teachers also implemented Parent Nights and an LEP program with highly qualified General Education teachers and ESL support.
- The Orange Public Schools offers grades K-12 students a robust Science curriculum aligned to New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS). The district utilizes Full Option Science System (FOSS) and CPO Science programs in Grades K-8. At the high school level, students are offered several laboratory and inquiry-based programs (e.g. Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc.) as well as customized electives including Anatomy and Physiology, Forensic Science and Astronomy. Additionally, Readorium, a program where students are taught comprehension skills through science-based nonfiction content, was expanded this year through Grade 8.
- Social Studies curricula have been revised to include Common Core State Standards and the new NJCCCS. Beginning in kindergarten, students study their community, with an emphasis on content and literacy skills. Geography, civics, historical events (both world and U.S.), current events, Amistad Studies, and Holocaust Studies are included in all grades, K-12.

- All district teachers and administrators set goals for themselves to increase their delivery of instruction and practice through professional development on the Teacher Effectiveness and Accountability for the Children of New Jersey (TEACHNJ) and AchieveNJ mandates, as measured by professional development in Danielson's Framework for Effective Teaching, Marshall's Principals Evaluation 2013 Rubric, and Westwood's Evaluation Rubrics through Teachscape.

Orange Early Childhood Program

The Orange Early Childhood Education program is a national model, cited in publications by Harvard University and the Center for American Progress. The program is free to all 3- and 4-year olds living in Orange and currently serves over 800 children. It offers a full-day educational experience with optional wrap-around services. Through a combination of in-district classes, private providers and Head Start, the district provides a wide choice of service for families. The program includes support for children with special needs within the classroom and addresses social/emotional needs, as they begin their educational journey.



Scholars Academy

The Scholars Academy is the gifted program for grades K-8. Students accepted into the program are transported to the academy one day per week and given challenging instruction to further develop their unique gifts. There are approximately 200 students currently enrolled in project-based instruction at Scholars Academy. Students complete in-depth study projects in the four classes they attend: Language Arts, Math, Science, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Interdisciplinary projects are carefully designed by Scholars Academy teachers in a variety of content areas.

Special Services

The Department of Special Services is charged with educating students who have learning challenges or physical needs. The department is responsible for providing support to all identified students ages 3 through 21. The district provides support/services to eligible students under the specific guidelines mandated by federal laws and New Jersey Administrative Code Title 6A:14 and by federal law. The department also develops, monitors and provides both direct and indirect instruction on measurable goals/objectives that address the needs of the student.

Bilingual/English as a Second Language (ESL)

The district's ESL Program is offered to all students who speak a language other than English at home and who are eligible to enroll in English Language Services, from kindergarten through Grade 12. ESL is a vital part of the Bilingual Program that is offered to Orange's student population in French/Haitian Creole and Spanish.

Staff and Professional Development

Professional Development (PD) is provided to staff to support their learning, adhering to Common Core State Standards and New Jersey Department of Education regulations and is aligned with the TEACHNJ Act. All district PD supports the pedagogical demands of the curriculum instruction and assessment to increase student achievement. During the school year each teacher must complete 20 hours of professional development.

School and district leaders also created a professional development plan derived from the results of their annual evaluation and identified professional goals aligned to individual, school, and/or district goals.

The district provided professional development to support academic shifts needed to meet the needs of Orange's students. Some of the PD areas included:

- Math in Focus, Go Math and Connected Mathematics coaching and mentoring
- In-depth teacher and administrator evaluation models training
- Sheltered English training
- Argument writing for social studies teachers
- Read 180 training/Math 180 training
- Apple educational applications
- Work Sampling training
- Children's Literacy Initiative
- Common Core State Standards
- Next Generation Science Standards
- Technology integration
- Administrative Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

Further, the district provided a Summer Institute for various PLCs across the areas of Mathematics, Science, STEM, English Language Arts, English as a Second Language, Social Studies, Guidance and Technology.

The district also sponsored the participation of teachers in a number of professional programs and fellowships, such as National Board Certification, Wipro Fellows, Woodrow Wilson Fellows, NJIT's Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) program and more.

Standardized Tests

All school districts in New Jersey administered the new Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) test in 2014-15. The PARCC test was designed to measure critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills that students need for higher education and the workforce. The PARCC assessments replaced the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge (NJASK) and the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA) in language arts and math.

In order to administer the new PARCC test, district staff members were trained and necessary materials were ordered. The district spent more than \$500,000 to purchase Chromebook devices to facilitate the online exam process, which is a requirement of the PARCC test.



Spring 2015 PARCC Results

PARCC student outcomes are divided into five performance levels. New Jersey has chosen to view scores attained at Level 4 and Level 5, as target measures of proficiency. Level 4 describes work that meets grade-level expectations. Level 5 describes work that exceeds grade-level expectations. Below are charts comparing Orange student attainment to state-level results by grade level.

2015 PARCC GRADE-LEVEL Outcomes
Mathematics

Grade	Count of Valid Test Scores	District % >= Level 4	NJ % >= Level 4
Grade 3	439	15%	45%
Grade 4	367	19%	41%
Grade 5	356	18%	41%
Grade 6	355	15%	41%
Grade 7	355	18%	37%
Grade 8*	242	13%	24%
Algebra I	333	23%	36%
Geometry	10	Scores suppressed	22%
Algebra II	409	9%	24%

2015 PARCC GRADE-LEVEL Outcomes
English Language Arts/Literacy

Grade	Count of Valid Test Scores	District % >= Level 4	NJ % >= Level 4
Grade 3	431	14%	44%
Grade 4	360	24%	51%
Grade 5	347	24%	52%
Grade 6	345	25%	49%
Grade 7	345	30%	52%
Grade 8	278	31%	52%
Grade 9	253	24%	40%
Grade 10	233	12%	37%
Grade 11	211	21%	41%

*Some students took the Grade 8 test; others took Algebra 1.

Note: The NJDOE does not report data when 10 or fewer students take the exam.

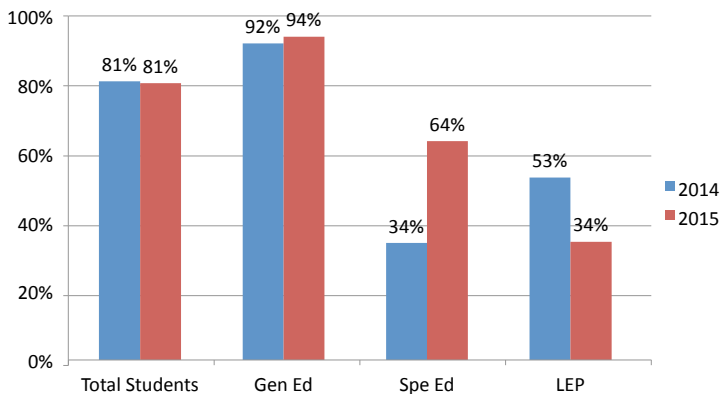
During the 2015-16 school year, the PARCC results will be analyzed. The district will use the data to determine student strengths and gaps in the existing curriculum and instructional practices.

High School Assessment

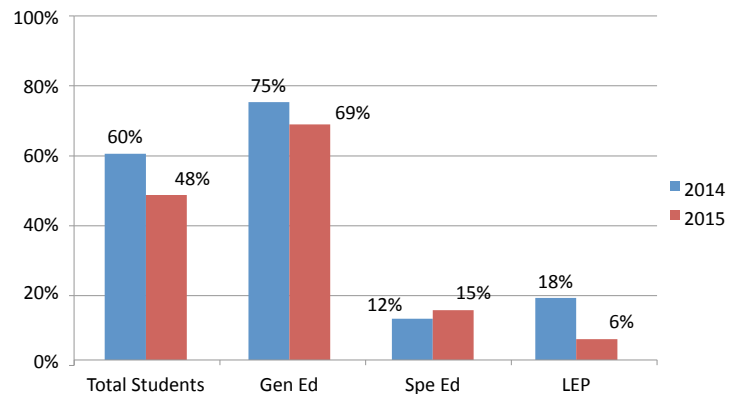
Some Grade 8 students and all Grades 9-11 students took the PSAT, financed by the Board of Education, to ensure that they are prepared for the college admissions process.

All Grade 12 students were administered the HSPA. Students start taking the HSPA during the spring of their junior year and may take the test up to 3 times to obtain a passing score. The summative results for the 2015 graduating class are as follows:

OHS Banked ELA HSPA Scores
2015 Graduating Class



OHS Banked Math HSPA Scores
2015 Graduating Class



Beginning with the Class of 2016, HSPA will no longer be a requirement for graduation in New Jersey. Instead, students are now required to take the PARCC test. Therefore, Grade 9-11 students, in 2014-15, took the PARCC English Language Arts and Algebra I, Algebra II, and/or Geometry. Students may also graduate using an alternate method approved by the New Jersey Department of Education. Such alternate methods include obtaining designated minimum scores on either the ACT, SAT, PSAT, IB and AP English Language, Accuplacer and ASVAB-AFQT tests (for the armed forces), or a student portfolio prepared by school districts to document student mastery of the state proficiency standards in math and language arts.

Budget/Grants

The Orange Township Public School District recognizes the importance of being accountable to the community for the financial health of its schools. As stewards for the community, the district employs sound financial management and presents a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) that certifies the integrity of the school system's fiscal operations.

The 2014-2015 district budget encompassed the district goals, reflecting rigorous curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The budget provided the necessary resources, personnel, and professional development to support the Common Core State Standards and the New Jersey Department of Education (DOE) standards, providing an opportunity for all students to achieve academically and graduate from high school prepared for college and careers.

District Revenues

Funding for the school district's budget, to operate and provide a thorough education for each student, is derived from three primary sources: the State of New Jersey, the Federal Government and Local Property Taxes. For the past three years, revenues for the district have been relatively flat. Resource reallocation and expenditures have provided for operational efficiencies, along with grants and partnerships that helped to maintain student programs.

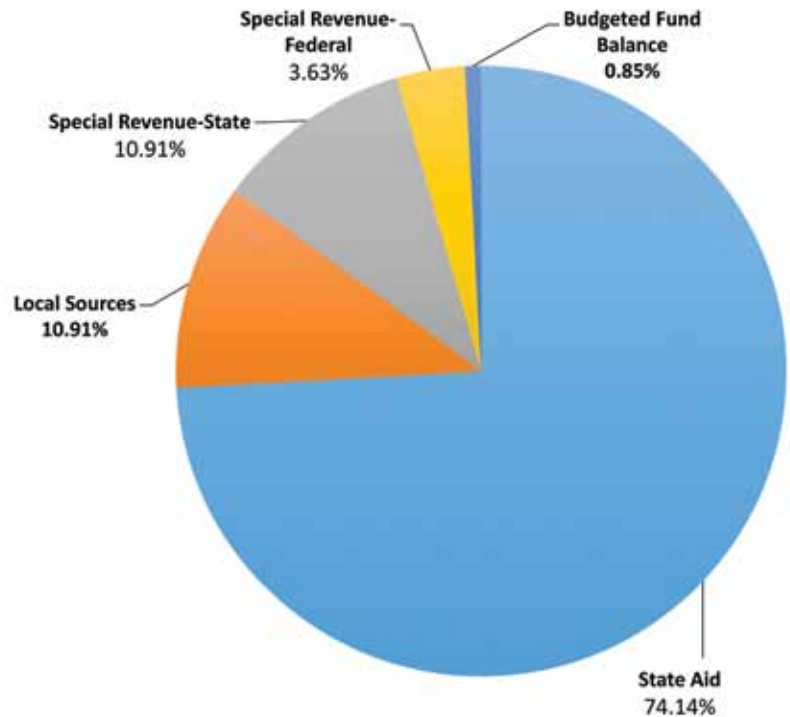
Revenue Sources

In 2008, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), a weighted student formula for financing PreK-12 education. After the initial year of implementation in 2009, the formula has not been properly funded. As a result, Orange Public Schools was notified by NJDOE that it was underfunded by \$13.1 million in 2014-15 and \$33.1 million since 2009.

For the fiscal year, July 2014 to June 2015, the budget amounts and the percentage breakdown are reflected in the charts shown on the right.

Local Tax Assessment, to support the district, was \$11,129,799 (Revenue from Local Sources) or an increase of \$213,231. Listed to the right is the amount the average resident paid in school tax levy, based on his/her assessed property value.

Revenue Sources	2012-13 (\$)	2013-14 (\$)	2014-15 (\$)
State	72,584,172	73,787,560	73,887,160
Local (Tax Level)	10,678,268	10,916,568	11,129,799
Special Revenue - State	10,349,687	10,399,220	10,422,857
Special Revenue - Federal	3,879,299	3,789,823	3,621,435
Budgeted Fund Balance	800,000	850,000	850,000
TOTAL REVENUES	98,291,426	99,743,171	99,911,251



Assessed Property Value

1. \$200,000
2. \$250,000
3. \$300,000
4. \$350,000
5. \$400,000

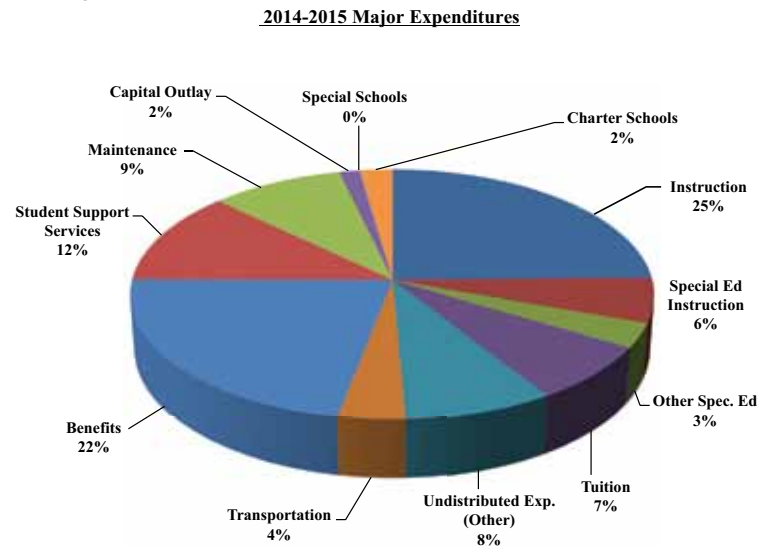
2014-15 School Tax Levy

- \$1,441
- \$1,801
- \$2,162
- \$2,522
- \$2,882

Major Expenditures

The district budget is allocated for direct and indirect expenditures to support student instruction. Below is a breakdown of major expenditures, along with a supporting chart.

Expenditures	\$ Amount
Instruction	24,649,968.00
Special Ed Instruction	5,802,040.00
Other Spec. Ed	3,123,765.00
Tuition	7,339,637.00
Undistributed Exp. (Other)	8,341,808.00
Transportation	3,689,682.00
Benefits	22,078,207.00
Student Support Services	12,015,523.00
Maintenance	9,195,916.00
Capital Outlay	1,365,840.00
Special Schools	69,626.00
Charter Schools	2,231,239.00
	99,911,251.00



For its accounting practices, the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the district for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2014. This is the sixth time that the district received this prestigious award. The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program was designed by ASBO International to enable school business officials to achieve a high standard of financial reporting.

Capital Projects

In March 2015, the Board of School Estimates approved a \$3.7 million capital bond to address facility needs of the district. The bond was approved to address district HVAC and boiler systems, property acquisitions and various school repairs. The district is currently seeking the State of New Jersey Department of Education's approval on the projects. The cost of the bond to the average Orange taxpayer, dependent on his/her assessed property value, ranges from approximately \$120 to \$200 annually.

As a former Abbott district, the cost of projects for facility additions and repairs in excess of \$500,000 are to borne by the State of New Jersey through the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA). During 2014-15, the SDA replaced the roof at Orange Preparatory Academy. The SDA is currently undertaking projects to build additions onto Cleveland Street and Orange High Schools. The scope of work for Cleveland Street School is to add a gymnasium/ multi-purpose room, a new front entrance and bathrooms. The scope at Orange High School is to add 22 additional classrooms, an auxiliary gym, library media center, HVAC and walkway bridge between OHS and OPA. Both projects include upgrading the existing facility and are anticipated to be completed in the year 2020.

Grants and Community Partners

Over the past several years, the district has partnered with higher education, community organizations and corporations and is thankful for their continued support. This has led to the Orange Public Schools being the direct and indirect recipient of \$21.4 million in grants. These funds are being used to support and expand opportunities for student programs, as highlighted in the Student Programs and Recognition Section in this report.

The district collaborated with Montclair State University, Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, Drew University, Stevens Institute of Technology, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rider University, Columbia University and Kean University, along with corporate entities and foundations, such as JP Morgan Chase, Robert Wood Johnson, the Orange Education Foundation, the Nicholson Foundation, Capital One and others.

Student Programs and Recognition

The Orange Public Schools offers a variety of activities and programs to promote academic advancement and to address student interests. Students have many services and programs available, free of cost, to facilitate their goals. To support college and career readiness for the 21st century, the district exposed students at the elementary schools to various college and career programs. At Orange High School there was the Annual College Fair, On-site College Instant Decision Days, Annual Financial Aid Night, and the Malcolm Bernard Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) College Fair.

Additionally, partnering with major non-profits and corporations, students have an opportunity to learn valuable life skills. Listed below are some of the student activities:

NJ SEEDS College Prep Program: For the past 10 years, approximately 45 students each year, in grades 10-12, were involved in an intensive three-year program to prepare for college admission. Students in the 2015 graduating class were accepted into prestigious schools, such as Barnard College, Carnegie Mellon and American Universities.

Rutgers TRIO - Talent Search: This is a popular college prep program, beginning in Grade 6, that provides training and support for entrance into higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants. This program is currently available to students at Cleveland Street School, Park Avenue School, Lincoln Avenue School, Orange Preparatory Academy and Orange High School.

NJIT RWC: Real World Connections (RWC) is a program hosted at NJIT that offers middle and high school students the chance to be involved in a fun and hands-on educational experience. Students get involved with the following:

- Film Making
- CSI: Solving Crimes with Science and Technology
- Android Apps Development
- Road to Medicine and Health Care Careers
- Fashion and Design using Technology
- Jersey Explorers East Orange Children's Museum
- Advanced Web Development
- Game Development
- Beyond the Walls (Marketing material design for a non-profit organization)

Music Advancement For Newark Area Youth (MANY): Approximately 30 of Orange's talented students participated in the Music Advancement For Newark Area Youth (MANY) Program, with the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra (NJSO). Students received high-quality instrumental music instruction and gained experience by performing culminating concerts at NJPAC and Montclair State University.

Sonic Explorations: One of several programs in New Jersey based on the Venezuelan El Sistema music education program, Sonic Explorations, at Oakwood Avenue Community School, is for students in grades K-3. It teaches teamwork, risk taking, creativity, problem solving and perseverance, as students explore the wonderful world of music making. The Sonic Explorations performed at NJPAC in Newark, as part of the El Sistema New Jersey Alliance's second annual Fiddle-and-Fa-La-La-Fest.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM): The district maintains STEM Labs at Scholars Academy, Orange Preparatory Academy and Orange High School. These labs offer a unique environment in which students work through hands-on projects. They explore alternative energy, architectural design, video production, computer animated design, and many more exciting and innovative approaches in the world of STEM.

Hydroponic Greenhouse: A full-service hydroponic greenhouse is in operation at Orange High School. This facility offers a viable program option for juniors and seniors to explore botany, ecology, and cultures through food, as well as directing a business which sells and distributes fresh vegetables to the community. In November 2014, Orange High School's sustainable food initiative earned it the Silver Award with National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Eco-Schools USA Program.



Hour of Code: Students in every school in Orange participated in the Hour of Code, a global movement designed to give an introduction to computer science. Coding has also been expanded at several of Orange's schools for full-year experiences.

Teen Summit: For the 5th year in a row, the Orange Public Schools supported students in grades 6 - 12 with two days of specialized workshops and fun activities. The theme of the summit was teaching students integrity and about the importance of having conversations with trusted adults. Approximately 400 students and adults attended the summit. The summit is a means of providing constructive information to help students address issues during their teen years, while also providing fun activities.

Junior Achievement: As part of the social studies curriculum, some fifth grade students participated in Junior Achievement's Biztown, applying financial literacy and civic skills as real-life professionals, including government, journalism, banking, culinary arts, service industry, law enforcement, law and marketing in a simulated town. Orange was one of two districts in New Jersey selected to participate in the pilot program in 2014. As a result of Orange's success, other districts participated in 2015.

Financial Park: Orange High School students also participated in Financial Park, a Jr. Achievement/Capital One initiative that gives several weeks of classroom lessons, centered on money management, wise consumerism and career exploration. Students then spend a day at the Capital One/JA Finance Park Simulated City, which models adult life situations. Students create a household budget, based on net monthly income, to navigate real issues like housing, transportation, utilities and childcare.

Disney/NJPAC Grant: Rosa Parks Community School won a "Disney Musicals in Schools" grant, which will pay for NJPAC and the Disney Theatrical Group to complete a 17-week musical theater residency at the school. The school will study "The Lion King," and will perform a 30-minute junior version of the musical at the close of the program, in the spring of 2016, at NJPAC.

Culinary Club Catering: The district has established culinary programs at Orange High School and Career Innovation Academy of Orange (CIAO). Students learn how to prepare and serve meals, and learn entrepreneurial practices and experiences by catering for Board of Education meetings, school events, and community events.

Animal Assisted Therapy: Park Avenue School initiated an innovative program to assist students with disabilities, using animals to enhance the therapeutic process and increase specific skills.

District Publishing Party: 1st Annual District Wide Publishing Party spotlighted and celebrated student writers throughout the district. Featured were digital and print displays focusing on more than 500 pieces of student writing and readings. More than 200 parents and community members attended.

Student Awards/Accomplishments

Orange students have opportunities to participate in many academic competitions held within and outside the district. Orange students often win, or do very well, in a variety of competitions. Below is a brief listing of their accomplishments:

- Orange High School's select choir, Voices in Harmony, won in various national and state competitions
- An Orange High School student won a poetry prize in the Essex County Law Day Literacy Contest
- A graduating senior from Orange High School was the winner of the Local Talk Community Foundation's Public Speaking Contest and was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship
- An Orange High School student was elected as Orange's delegate for the Congress of Future Medical Leaders Program
- A Forest Street School student was named the 2015 National Reading Champion

- Orange High School students were winners in the National French Contest
- The Park Avenue and Oakwood Avenue School Bridge Teams won several awards in Regional Tournaments held in Rybrook and Woodbridge, and the National Youth Bridge Tournament held in Nevada, in the summer of 2014, and Chicago in the summer of 2015
- Students earned coveted prizes and trophies in the following district-wide academic competitions:
 - o Science Fair: The 7th Annual District Science Fair showcased the best science projects from across the district. At the culminating event, each selected project is displayed and reviewed by a panel of judges. Trophies were then awarded in a ceremony attended by students, staff and family members.
 - o Spelling Bee of Champions: Annually, the best spellers from each district school, grades K-8, compete for the “Spelling Bee of Champions,” which was won by a fourth grade Heywood Avenue student this school year.
 - o Annual History Bee: Participating schools competed in a game-show format, buzzing in answers regarding questions on topical issues and historical events and figures. Lincoln Avenue School won this year’s competition.

Extracurricular Activities

There are numerous extracurricular activities available to students in the district. Opportunities vary by grade level and school and include the following:

- 21st Century Education Afterschool Program
 - o Needlepoint
 - o Musical Theater
- Afterschool Enrichment Program
- Annual Stage Productions
- Art Club
- Beta Club
- Bridge Club
- Cheerleading
- Chess Club
- Cyber Café
- Dance Club
- Debate Team
- Diversity Club
- Drama Club
- French Club
- Health Occupation Students Association (HOSA)
- Intramural Sports
- Male and Female Mentoring Programs
 - o Berry’s Butterflies
 - o Male Student Support Program
- Marching Band
- Music Advancement For Newark Area Youth (MANY)
- Musical Theater
- National Honor Society
- National Junior Honor Society
- Newspaper Clubs/Yearbook Club
- Orange Dance Conservatory
- Positive Behavior Support in Schools
- Robotics
- STEM Club
- Sonic Explorations
- Student Government
- Varsity Sports
- Walk for Wellness



District Schools

**CAREER AND INNOVATION
ACADEMY OF ORANGE (CIAO)**
123 Cleveland Street
Orange, NJ 07050-2711
973-677-4000, ext. 1701

CLEVELAND STREET SCHOOL
355 Cleveland Street
Orange, NJ 07050-1916
973-677-4100

FOREST STREET SCHOOL
651 Forest Street
Orange, NJ 07050-1306
973-677-4120

HEYWOOD AVENUE SCHOOL
421 Heywood Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-2006
973-677-4105

LINCOLN AVENUE SCHOOL
216 Lincoln Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-2523
973-677-4130

**OAKWOOD AVENUE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL (OACS)**
135 Oakwood Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-3909
973-677-4095

**ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD
CENTER (OECC)**
397 Park Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-2823
973-677-4000, ext. 1903, 1920

ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL (OHS)
400 Lincoln Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-2208
973-677-4050

**ORANGE PREPARATORY
ACADEMY (OPA)**
400 Central Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-2420
973-677-4135

PARK AVENUE SCHOOL
231 Park Avenue
Orange, NJ 07050-4139
973-677-4124

**ROSA PARKS
COMMUNITY SCHOOL (RPCS)**
369 Main Street
Orange, NJ 07050-2774
973-677-4515
(Central Campus)
33 Cleveland Street
Orange, NJ 07050-2709
973-677-4110

SCHOLARS ACADEMY/OECC II
268 Capuchin Way
(Freeway Drive East between S. Day
& S. Center Streets)
Orange, NJ 07050-3501
973-677-4000, ext. 1801



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