



# OBOE-Mail Blast

July 15, 2016

Volume 5, Number 40

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## Superintendent Lee Announces His Retirement

At the June 28 Special Board of Education Meeting, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, announced his retirement at the end of this year. His retirement came in response to the Board's actions at the meeting. The Board members approved a resolution and presented the Superintendent with a letter stating that his contract, which expires on June 30, 2017, would not be renewed. In response, Mr. Lee asked Mr. Adekunle James, Board Secretary and District Business Administrator, to read his letter of retirement.



**Pictured (left to right): Board of Education members: Mr. Abdul Shabazz-Ashanti and Ms. Kyleesha Hill, Board Vice President E. Lydell Carter, Superintendent of Schools Ronald C. Lee, Board President Cristina Mateo, Board Attorney Ronald Hunt, and Board members: Mr. Jarteau Israel and Ms. Gloria Fisher.**

Subsequent to the June 28 meeting, the Board met with Superintendent Lee, in closed session, to discuss their actions and his intent. That meeting was followed by the Monthly Board of Education meeting on July 12. At the monthly meeting, there was an outpouring of support for Superintendent Lee from former Board of Education members, Orange clergy, long-time residents, parents and former and current staff members. They questioned the rationale for the Board's decision, citing Superintendent Lee's many accomplishments.

Superintendent Lee thanked everyone who came out to offer his or her support. He mentioned his investment in the community, stating, "Orange has been my town," even more so that the community where he lives. He recounted fighting against state take-over of the district in the early 1990s, when he was Business Administrator. He was proud of what was accomplished and proud to have taken on the challenge. However, "I have done some soul searching," he said, with regards to his future with the district beyond June 30, 2017. The decision of the Board, along with the superintendent's salary cap imposed by Governor Chris Christie is weighing heavily on his retirement decision.

Contact Information:  
Orange Board of Education  
451 Lincoln Avenue  
Orange, NJ 07050  
[Send Us An Email](#)

However, he mentioned that he and the Board are still in discussions and he has offered to reconsider retiring in December, if they cannot find a suitable replacement for him, and if the salary cap sunsets in November.



**Pictured (left to right): Former Board of Education members, Mrs. Maxine Johnson and Mrs. Patricia Arthur address the Board on July 12; scene from the July 12 meeting.**

Under his leadership, the district has made great strides to increase student achievement. The district has increased its graduation rate from 58% to 87%, all schools in the district have been certified by the Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools. In addition, Orange High School received AP Honor Roll Status for increasing the Advanced Placement offerings for students and Orange High School was the only school in Essex County to be removed from the NJ Department of Education list of schools in need of improvement.

#### Board of Education Meetings

The Monthly Board of Education Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month, at the Orange Preparatory Academy Auditorium, beginning at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise posted. The next board meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2016. Please see the district website for time and location.

### **The 2016 Commencement Exercise**



With much pomp and circumstance, the *2016 Commencement Exercise* for Orange High School and the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange took place on June 24, at the Codey Arena in West Orange. The stadium was packed with families and well-wishers for the graduation event that awarded diplomas to over 265 seniors!

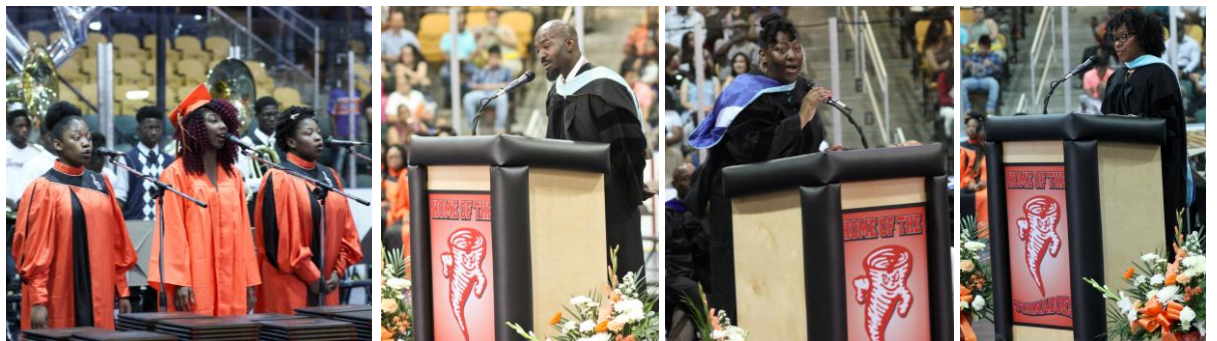
The event was formal, with the traditional processional by Sir Edward Elger, escorting the district dignitaries and township officials into the arena. Leading the way were Orange High School's Co-Principals Dr. Kalisha Morgan and Mr. Jason Belton and Principal of the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange, Dr. Erica Stewart. Following this procession, to exuberant applause, was the graduating class. The program opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, by Marlena Brown, and rousing renditions of *The National Anthem* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* by members of Voices in Harmony (ViH). The group later sang *I Believe*, by Yolanda Adams, to equal applause.



**Pictured (left to right): Senior Class President Brittany Beckley, Salutatorian Kesia Ofosu-Oware and Valedictorian Lounie Germain; Dignitaries; Class of 2016 procession.**

The speeches were congratulatory, thankful, sometimes emotional and, most of all, inspirational. Superintendent Ronald C. Lee encouraged graduates to set a path for themselves, “Whatever your dreams may be, remember this, all dreams are deferred for all who do nothing and who fail to believe in themselves.” He asked students to thank all those who helped them along the way, as did the other speakers; the school principals, Valedictorian, Salutatorian and Class President, who had words of thanks for the teachers, counselors, advisors, parents, family and friends for their support. There were moments of acknowledgement for having persevered and survived, acknowledgement for believing in themselves and self-reflection, as Class Valedictorian, Lounie Germain, addressed her peers from a “place of honesty.” She recounted her grade school years when she felt like a failure, fought back against taunting, and became hurtful to her family and her character. “I decided to turn myself around, and this new person, a person of substance, integrity and determination is the young lady that you see standing in front of you today.”

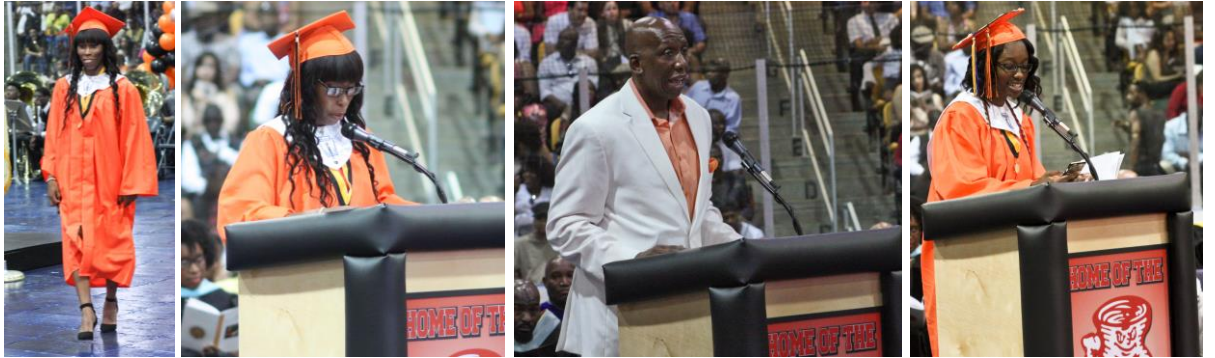
The keynote speaker, Mr. Reginald Miller, a 1985 Orange High School graduate, also recounted his journey from Orange to where he is today, the head of the Male Student Support Program in the district, serving the young men of Orange. He asked the audience to have three things on their plate: their character, their family (name), and Orange Pride. He stressed that it is important to uphold your reputation, make your family proud and have pride in your high school and the community. The 2016 class has many reasons to be proud. As mentioned by Co-Principal Dr. Kalisha Morgan, the graduates received over \$7 million in scholarships and grants. They also received college acceptance to over fifty colleges and universities. Go Tornados!



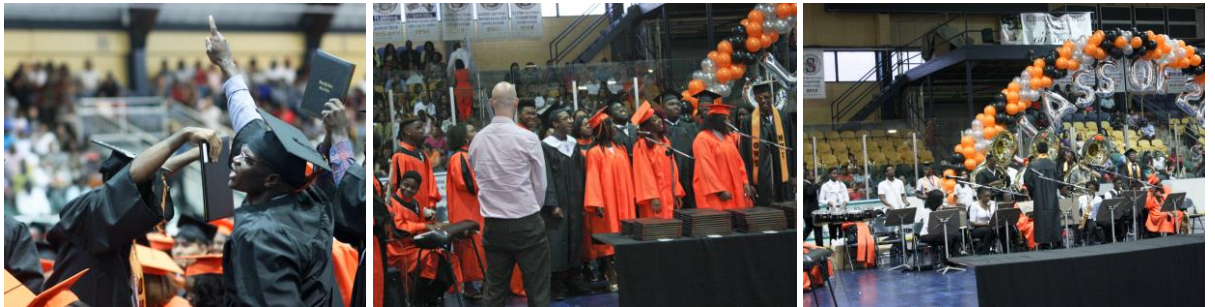
**Pictured (left to right): Members of ViH singing the National Anthem; Mr. Belton; Dr. Stewart; Dr. Morgan.**



**Pictured (left to right): Superintendent Lee; Salutatorian; Mayor Dwayne D. Warren, Esq.; Board President Cristina Mateo.**



**Pictured (left to right): Lounie Germain; Mr. Miller; Class President Brittany Beckley.**



**Pictured (left to right): Students cheering; Voices in Harmony; Mighty Marching Tornadoes.**

## **Orange Township Coalition Testifies at the State House on the Inequity of the School Funding Formula**

On June 20, the Honorable Mayor Dwayne D. Warren led a coalition from the Orange Township Public School District to testify to the Joint Committee on the Public Schools at the State House Annex, in Trenton. The coalition included Superintendent of the Orange Public Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, along with District administrators, Board of Education members, City officials, parents, community activists and students. The group met to highlight the disparity and inequity in the state's school funding formula, which, since it's implementation, has resulted in the Orange Public School District being underfunded by \$59 million.



**Pictured (left to right): Orange students and staff on the way to Trenton; Walking to State House Annex.**

In 2008, the New Jersey Legislature enacted the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA), a weighted student formula for financing PK-12 education. After the initial year of implementation in 2009, the formula has not been properly funded. As a result, districts across the state are not receiving the state aid to which they are entitled.

<http://www.edlawcenter.org/research/school-funding-data.html>

Members of the Joint Committee on the Public Schools present to hear the testimony were:

- Senator Ronald L. Rice, Co-Chair
- Assemblywoman Mila M. Jasey, Co-Chair
- Senator Samuel D. Thompson
- Assemblywoman Sheila Y. Oliver
- Assemblyman Benjie E. Wimberly
- Executive Director, Rebecca Sapp

Each speaker addressed the committee with facts and results of the underfunding. Mayor Warren, who opened the discussion, stated, “I come before you to advocate for our children in the City of Orange Township to ensure that they receive a quality education.” He stated that the gaps in funding will impact academic programs, along with afterschool and Saturday programs that supplement students’ education. Additionally, he said there would be an impact on “the salary of our educators.”



**Pictured (left to right): Mayor Warren; Director Sapp; Senator Rice, Assemblywoman Oliver; Meeting participants.**

Following Mayor Warren’s appeal, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, addressed the forum, armed with detailed examples and comparisons between Orange and other districts in Essex County, as well as former Abbott districts. “The State underfunding, on a per-pupil basis for the 2016-2017 school year, will be \$2,483 per students,” stated Mr. Lee, which is a distinct disadvantage for Orange’s 5,600 students. “In Orange, our disadvantage is glaringly evident, and no clearer than when we try to recruit and maintain quality teachers.” Mr. Lee also spoke of the advances made in the district, despite budget shortfalls, programs the district has had to sacrifice, and the opportunities lost due to underfunding. “Additional funds would have afforded the District an opportunity to be competitive with our neighboring districts, again to hire and retain teachers, create an alternative program at our elementary level, because there’s a dire need, and to lengthen the school day.” He closed saying, “If you’ve seen what we’ve done while we have been underfunded, imagine what we’ll do with an extra \$2,400 a student.”



**Pictured (left to right): Superintendent Lee with Mr. Adekunle James and Mayor Warren; Mr. David Sciarra; Dr. Stewart with Mayor Warren**

The other speakers eloquently presented their position regarding the need for an equitable share of funds to provide the district's students with necessary programs to strengthen their academic standing. Mr. David Sciarra, Esq, Executive Director of the Education Law Center, reviewed the district's status under SFRA; highlighting the increase in student enrollment, as well as an increase in ELL students and the number of at-risk students. "The real problem is the lack of State aid to increase funding under the adequacy budget," stated Mr. Sciarra. Dr. Erica Stewart, Principal of the Career and Innovation Academy, gave a perspective of her experiences growing up in Orange, having the resources available to support her educational goals and the changing demographics of the City, which require new services the district cannot afford due to underfunding. City Officials, a parent representative, the Clergy and students echoed similar sentiments. The student representatives gave emotional pleas for support, particularly in the area of career guidance and readiness that would prepare them for life beyond high school. Assemblywoman Sheila Oliver complimented them, stating, "You have made me very happy because, maybe, in the next election cycle, you might be 18."



**Pictured: Parent, Mr. David Armstrong; Assemblywomen, Sheila Oliver and Mila Jasey; Students from Orange Prep and OHS.**

Assemblywoman and Co-Chair Mila Jasey stated, "And I very much want to thank the Superintendent, the Mayor, the Education Association and, most importantly, the students and parents who came out this morning to talk to us. It's very important to put faces to the situations that we're trying to address." Senator Ronald Rice concurred and added, "I know you have good leadership in your School District because I go way back with Ron Lee, so I know his skill set and his sincerity."



**Pictured: Orange representatives (Mr. Carter, Mr. Corbitt, Mayor Warren, Mr. Moench, Mr. Lee, Mr. James, Mr. Douglas, Mr. Israel, Ms. Hill and Ms. Moses) pose with Mr. Moench; Mayor Warren with students.**

The meeting with the Joint Committee on the Public Schools was the result of a “grassroots community-based committee,” formed under the leadership of the Mayor Warren, along with parents, concerned citizens in the City of Orange Township and the Orange Public School District’s leadership, to further educate the residents and the parents in the Township about school funding. After meeting with the Committee, Mayor Warren arranged a brief meeting with Mr. Matthew C. Moench, Esq., Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, to further discuss the plight of Orange. He was accompanied by: Board of Education Vice President E. Lydell Carter, Board members, Kyleesha Hill, Jarreau Israel, Councilman At Large Elroy Corbitt, Orange Fire Director Kenneth A. Douglas, Ms. Sheila Newton Moses, Developer/Designer, Superintendent Ronald C. Lee, District Business Administrator and Board of Education Secretary Adekunle O. James, City of Orange intern, Douglas Porter, Orange High School students, Franca Estimable and Taiwo Odunowo.

The meeting gave students a sense of empowerment, knowing that they can address their concerns to their elected officials.

**Presenters and Supporters:**

Dwayne D. Warren, Esq. Mayor City of Orange Township	Douglas Porter Private Citizen (Mayor’s Office)	David Armstrong Private Citizen (Parent)
Ronald C. Lee Superintendent of Schools Orange Public Schools	Erica L. Stewart, Ed.D. Principal Career and Innovation Academy of Orange	Franca Estimable President Class of 2017 Orange High School
David Sciarra, Esq. Executive Director Education Law Center	Rev. Lanel D. Guyton, D.Min. Senior Pastor Saint Matthew A.M.E. Church	Valerie Barnave Private Citizen (Student)
Elroy A. Corbitt Councilman-at-Large City of Orange Township	Niam Thomas Private Citizen (Student)	Taiwo Odunowo Incoming Junior Class President Orange High School
Adrienne Wooten Councilwoman-at-Large City of Orange Township	Kirah Lewter Private Citizen (Student)	Andrew Coates Private Citizen (Student)

A complete transcript of the meeting is available at:  
<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/legislativepub/pubhear/jcps06202016.pdf>

## Staff Recognition Ceremony: *Honoring our Dedicated Employees 2015-2016*



The annual Staff Recognition Ceremony, honoring the Orange Public School District's

retirees and individuals attaining 25 years of service, was held on June 15 at Libretti's in Orange. Mrs. Belinda Scott Smiley, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent for Operations/Human Resources, hosted the event with remarks from Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Ronald C. Lee, Mr. William Nussbaum, President of the Orange Education Association, Ms. Faith Alcantara, President of the Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association and an invocation by Mrs. Shelly Harper, Director of Special Services. Dr. Paula Howard, Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent Lee made closing remarks.

The following retirees were presented with plaques, honoring their many years of dedicated service to Orange Public Schools:

- **Cindy Pagano**, Rosa Parks Community School
- **Enid Shapiro Unger**, Cleveland Street School
- **Dr. Walter Campbell**, Heywood Avenue School
- **Georges Austin, Glenda Ford** and **Hassan A. Shaheed**, Lincoln Avenue School
- **Eleanor Dixon**, Park Avenue School
- **Dorcas Robinson**, Orange Preparatory Academy
- **Alexandra Protopapas** and **Minette Solomon**, Orange High School
- **Kathryn Carter**, Curriculum and Testing



**Pictured: Ms. Kathryn Carter with Superintendent Lee.**

Ms. Kathryn Carter, Director of English Language Arts (ELA), who retired after 25 years of service, was presented with additional awards.



**Pictured: Ms. Glenda Ford with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**



**Pictured: Mr. Hassan A. Shaheed with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**



**Pictured: Ms. Enid Shapiro Unger with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**



Her sorority members, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Rho Gamma Omega Chapter, (*pictured below*) gave her flowers and congratulated her for her many years of dedication and service to children.



Ms. Carter also received flowers from the ELA Supervisors and Coaches. The Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association presented her with a gift basket and flowers.



**Pictured: Ms. Carter with ELA Supervisors and Coaches.**



**Pictured: Ms. Carter with Administrators, Supervisors and Coaches.**



**Pictured: Ms. Dorcas Robinson with Orange Prep Co- Principal Aretha Malloy, Superintendent Lee and Ms. Smiley.**



**Pictured: Ms. Alexander Protopapas with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**



**Pictured: Ms. Minette Solomon with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**



**Pictured: Ms. Eleanor Dixon with Mr. Nussbaum and Superintendent Lee.**

Twenty-five year employees were congratulated for attaining this milestone anniversary. Ms. Tammy Baldwin and Ms. Joycelyne Laurore received a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their service to the Orange Public Schools.

The Orange Education Association, the Orange Administrators and Supervisors Association and the Orange Public School District sponsored the annual event. The committee that planned the program was acknowledged for their effort. The members were: Ms. Deidre Dobbs, Ms. Linda Siddiq, Ms. Mary Karriem, Ms. Faith Alcantara, Ms. Belinda Scott Smiley, Ms. Bola Powell, and Mr. William Nussbaum.



**Pictured: Staff Recognition Ceremony Committee Members.**

The dinner dance was festive, as families and staff celebrated the dedication of those being honored.



**Pictured: Ms. Tammy Baldwin with Ms. Aretha Malloy, Orange Preparatory Academy Co-Principal, and Superintendent Lee.**



**Pictured: Ms. Joycelyne Laurore with Mr. Nussbaum, Principal Faith Alcantara and Superintendent Lee.**



***Staff Recognition Ceremony***

***June 15, 2016***

## Geography Bee

The Social Studies Department hosted a Geography Bee for students in grades 5-7, on June 9, at Park Avenue School. The Bee, a precursor to future participation in the National Geography Bee competition, was conducted in two rounds, by grade levels: Round 1 for Grade 5-6 and Round 2 for Grades 7-8. Teams of students competed against each other for the winner of each round.

Questions were projected on a screen and read for the participants in the elimination portion of each round, followed by a buzzer-based quiz component for the top two teams/student. During the 5-6 round, two fifth grade teams, Heywood (represented by one student) and two Forest Street students were both declared winners in a tightly contested battle, which included a challenge from the audience. The winners were: Nana Spong and David Pagan, Forest Street School, and Akasha Baranello, Heywood Avenue School. The 7-8 graders had clear 1st and 2nd place winners. First place went to Ashley Laveriano, Orange Preparatory Academy 8<sup>th</sup> grader and second place went to, 6<sup>th</sup> graders Benjarly Etienne and Nacaiah Williams from Park Avenue School.

Questions included:

- US States/Capitals/ Cities
- Continents/ World Geography
- Cultural
- Climate
- Landforms (definition)/mountains/rivers
- Map reading/map parts/longitude and latitude

Ms. Linda Epps, Supervisor of History/Social Studies and Technology organized the Geography Bee. The judges were, Ms. Carrie Halstead, Assistant Principal Orange High School, Ms. Devonii Reid, Assistant Principal Park Avenue School and Dr. Terri Russo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, Professional Development, and Data Assessment. Dr. Russo also served as the question “reader.” Also, assisting and reading the competition rules was Dr. Erica Stewart, Principal of the Career and Innovation Academy of Orange. Ms. Epps thanked each for their role, along with Dr. Denise Harlem, Technology Coordinator for Park Avenue School, for her assistance with audio/visual equipment.

**Pictured right: Ms. Linda Epps (1); Judges; Dr. Terri Russo, Assistant Principals, Ms. Carrie Halstead and Ms. Devonii Reid (2); Dr. Erica Stewart (3).**



**Pictured above: Scenes from the Geography Bee.**



Also Acknowledged, for their assistance, were social studies teachers:

- Mr. Marc Levenson, Cleveland Street School
- Mr. Paul Halligan, Park Avenue School
- Mr. Antoine Merideth, Oakwood Avenue Community School
- Dr. Walter Campbell, Heywood Avenue School
- Mr. Day, Lincoln Avenue School
- Mr. Michael Esquerre, Mrs. Kathleen Gengaro and Mr. Kenneth Schulz, Orange Preparatory Academy
- Mr. Brian Canares, Forest Street School
- Ms. Chelsey Lepinski, Rosa Parks Community School



**Pictured: Scenes from the Geography Bee's final buzzer competition.**

The Geography Bee was organized to boost academic skills and to assist students in increasing their levels of proficiency in geography. Nationally, only 27 percent of 8<sup>th</sup> graders are proficient in geography, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Winners of the Geography Bee:



**Pictured (left to right): Winners of the Grade 5-6 Round; Winners of the Grade 7-8 Round.**



# July 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	OHS Summer School (6/27-8/2)		Summer Robotics Camp at Orange Prep Academy (6/29-7/28) 		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>	 <b>Happy 4th of July!</b> District Closed	<b>5</b> Summer Performing Arts Camp at Park Avenue School (7/5-8/9) 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Monthly Board Meeting Orange Preparatory Academy 7:30 <sup>PM</sup>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b>	 <b>Summer Vacation</b>					



# ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEPARTMENT

## **PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR 2016 - 2017**

### REQUIREMENTS:

- 3 years old by 10/01/16                      4 years old by 10/01/16
  - Must be resident of Orange Township
    - Original Birth Certificate
    - Child's Immunization record
    - Current lease or Mortgage Statement
  - 2 Proofs of Residency (PSE&G bill, telephone or cable bill),
    - No cellphone bills, please
    - Picture ID

**If you are living with a friend or relative, you must be included in their lease agreement. Notarized letters stating you rent a room/apartment/house will not be accepted.**

***DATES: JULY 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, and 21***

***TIME 10:00 a.m. – 1:00p.m.***

***Last sign in: 12:30 p.m.***

***PLACE: ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
397 PARK AVE, ORANGE, NJ 07050  
973-677-4000 ext. 1904 or 1918***

***IF YOU ARE CONCERNED YOUR PRESCHOOL CHILD IS DEVELOPING OR LEARNING DIFFERENTLY, YOU CAN CALL THE DISTRICT TO REQUEST AN EVALUATION FOR PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES.***



# ESCUELAS PUBLICAS DE ORANGE DEPARTAMENTO DE EDUCACION PREESCOLAR REGISTRACIÓN PREESCOLAR 2016-2017

## REQUISITOS:

- 3 AÑOS ANTES DE 10/01/16
- 4 AÑOS ANTES DE 10/01/16
- DEBE SER RESIDENTE DEL MUNICIPIO DE ORANGE
- PARTIDA DE NACIMIENTO ORIGINAL
- EXPEDIENTE DE INMUNIZACIONES DEL NIÑO/NIÑA
- DECLARACIÓN ACTUAL DEL ARRIENDO O DE LA HIPOTECA
- Identificación de fotos
- **2 Pruebas de Residencia (recibo de PSE&G, teléfono o recibo del cable, NO CELLPHONE!) deben ser actual.**
- **SI USTED ESTA VIVIENDO CON UN FAMILIAR O AMIGO TIENE QUE ESTAR INSCRITO EN EL CONTRATO DE ARRENDAMIENTO. NO SE ACEPTARA CARTAS NOTARIZADA.**

### **REGISTRACIÓN:**

***JULIO 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, y 21***

***10:00 am. - 1:00 pm.***

***Tiene que firmar ANTES de las 12:30pm***

**LUGAR: ORANGE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
397 PARK AVE, ORANGE, NJ 07050  
(973) 677-4000 ext 1904, 1918**

**SI USTED ESTA PREOCUPADO POR QUE SU HIJO/HIJA ESTA DESARROLLANDO ALGUN PROBLEMA DE APRENDISAJE O APRENDIENDO DIFERENTE FAVOR DE CONTACTAR AL DEPARTAMENTO DE SERVICIOS ESPECIALES EN EL DISRITO.**