

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

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

“The Teaching Superintendent”

May 14, 2025

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

Presented by Mr. David Scutari, Executive Director of STEM  
Focused Learning





Celebration of Students

**April 2025**

Student of the Month Announcement

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

FOCUS CORE AREA NUMBERS 1 & 2

DISTRICT GOAL NUMBER 1&4 AND ALL SUB SECTIONS

Students of the Month  
**APRIL 2025**  
Congratulations to our STAR Students!



Name of School	Student of the Month	Name of School	Student of the Month
Central Elementary School	Bianca Celony	Orange High School	Jaden Smith
Cleveland Street School	Sammuel Vidal Alayo	Orange Preparatory Academy of Inquiry and Innovation	Ryan Godette
Forest Street Community School	Rebecca St. Vry	Park Avenue School	Iker Gualan Rodriguez
Heywood Avenue School	Skyla Gines	Rosa Parks Community School	Camila Suarez
Lincoln Avenue School	Ximena Ordenez Canac	STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges	Abby Gonzalez
Oakwood Avenue Community School	Jabree Jackson	The Twilight Program	Brianna Blanco



# Mental Health Awareness Month

As we recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month, within the Orange Public School District, we want to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of caring for our mental and emotional well-being. Mental health is just as vital as physical health, and creating a safe, supportive, and compassionate environment for everyone in our school community is a shared responsibility.

This month but more importantly each and every day, let's break the stigma, open up conversations, and remind each other that it's okay to ask for help. Whether you're a student navigating academic pressures, a parent juggling many responsibilities, or a staff member supporting others—your mental health matters.



# Mental Health Awareness Month

We encourage everyone to take small steps toward self-care, check in with one another, and utilize the resources available in our school and community. Together, we can create a culture where wellness is a priority and everyone feels seen, heard, and supported.

Thank you for being part of a community that values kindness, connection, and care.

-Dr. Fitzhugh, Superintendent of Schools-





# Teachers' Appreciation Day Celebration

As we mark Teacher Appreciation Week, I want to take a moment on behalf of our entire district leadership, the Board of Education, and community to express our deepest gratitude for your dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to our students.

Each day, you bring learning to life, spark curiosity, and help shape the future. Your work is not just a job; it is a profound calling that leaves a lasting impact on every student you teach. The resilience, creativity, and compassion you continue to show, especially in the face of challenges, inspire us all.

Please know that your efforts do not go unnoticed. Whether you're guiding a kindergartener through their first words, supporting a high school senior toward graduation, or working behind the scenes to make learning possible; your contributions matter deeply.

Thank you as always for your commitment.

Dr. Gerald Fitzhugh, II,



# Nurse's Appreciation Week

May 7th, nationally, has been coined School Nurses' Appreciation Day. I want to extend my deepest gratitude and admiration for the incredible work you do every single day.

You are the quiet strength in our schools; caring for the physical and emotional health of our students, offering comfort in times of stress, and responding swiftly and skillfully when emergencies arise. Your role goes far beyond medical care; you are educators, advocates, and trusted allies for students, families, and staff alike.





# Strategic Plan Core Focus Areas

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Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
“The Teaching Superintendent”  
May 14, 2025  
All District Goals and Sub Sections  
All Core Focus Areas of the Orange Strategic Plan



# Core Focus Area One

**Core Focus Area One: Strong Home-School Community Connection**  
Establish and communicate a shared vision for family-school engagement by a committee of stakeholders, led by the Superintendent of Schools.

Revise the framework for parent, family, and community engagement in order to increase student and family connectivity to community resources, programs, services, and partnerships.

Ensure that meaningful communication with families and community members is readily available and easily accessible.

Integrate ongoing and meaningful input from parents and stakeholders into planning and decision-making,

Increase capacity across the district through the implementation of research-based strategies to engage families and communities in education and develop successful parent-family-community partnerships.

Continue to establish community and business partnerships to strengthen student work-based and out of school learning experiences.

# Core Focus Area Two

## Core Focus Area Two: Student Universal Supports

Develop a district wide universal learning supports system that addresses barriers to learning and teaching and eliminates the predictability of outcomes for all students based on race, gender, socio-economic status, learning modality, language, or sexual orientation

Conduct a comprehensive assessment (program evaluation) to develop a district-wide universal learning supports plan and select relevant programs, interventions, and tiered supports match the unique needs of each school and student.

Build capacity to collaborate with existing providers and recruit new partners, strategically bringing additional resources into the school that builds capacity without duplicating efforts.

Develop a system for ongoing data tracking and evaluation to ensure high-quality implementation and continuous improvement of student learning supports.

Work together with parents, caregivers, and community partners to help schools meet the needs of the whole child.



# Core Focus Area Three

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## **Core Focus Area Three: Human Capital and Job-Embedded Professional Development**



Establish a model to recruit, support, and develop newly hired teachers and staff through coaching, peer collaboration, fellowships, and residencies, and mentorship.



Establish an effective leadership development framework that strengthens and aligns support for school leaders to serve as instructional leaders.



Implement job-embedded professional development that provides differentiated support and learning opportunities for instructional staff, creates leadership opportunities for teachers and coaches, and affords incentives for continuous learning.



Allocate the resources and staffing necessary to ensure that special learners and ELL students receive mandated services and programs to meet their learning needs.



Adopt a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI Framework) that supports the development and retention of a diverse workforce and addresses systemic inequities.

# Core Focus Area Four

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## Core Focus Area Four: Rigorous and Relevant Curricula and Instruction



Continue to identify, develop, and implement inclusive, evidence-based, and college and career ready standards-aligned pre-k through grade 12 instructional materials and curricula for all learners and subgroups, and across all disciplines.



Advance the use and management of a multi-faceted district-wide assessment system that is aligned to curricula, integrates multiple measures, and allows accessibility and modifications, and that acts as a continuous thread of instructional practice.



Continue to identify, develop, and leverage digital design formats and capabilities that can support learning in in-person, remotely, or in hybrid formats, enabling improved continuous access to and engagement with instructional content.



# Core Focus Area Four

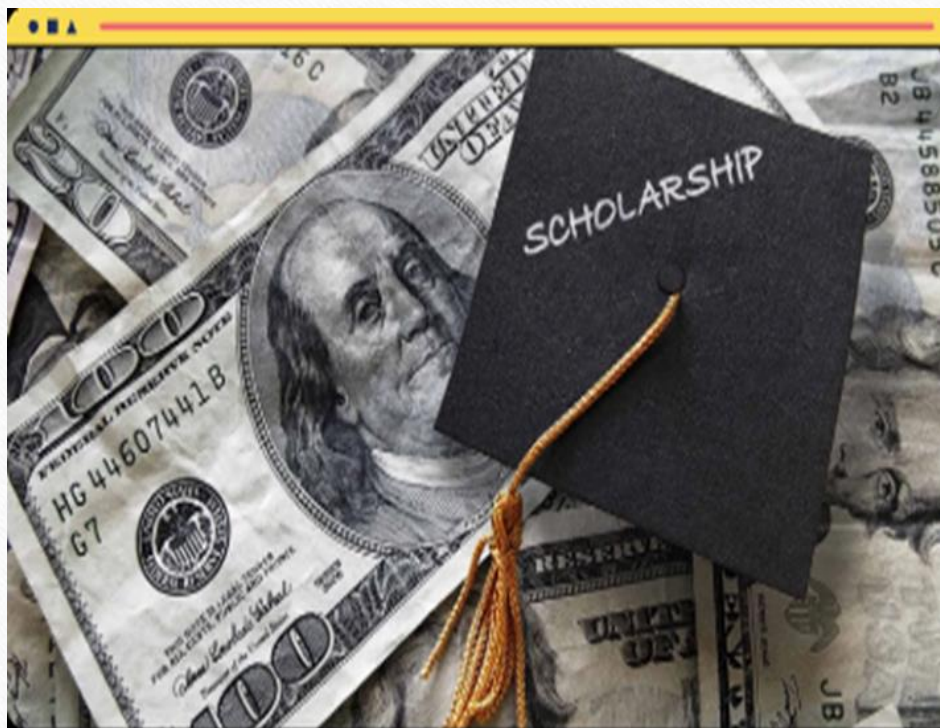
## **Core Focus Area Four: Rigorous and Relevant Curricula and Instruction**

Coordinate efforts with state agencies and community partners to establish a strong Early Childhood/Pre-K 3 continuum that prepares students for elementary schools and generates enthusiasm for learning.

Build out career-centered programs that specialize in the skilled trades, applied sciences, modern technologies, and career oriented courses, and opportunities for students to gain work experience through internships, job shadowing, on the job training, and industry certification opportunities.

Research, identify, and integrate evidence-based pre-k through grade 12 social-emotional learning (SEL) aligned resources and practices throughout curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development rating.

# SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES



- Each month, Supervisor of Guidance, Mrs. Williams-Ware, provides our Superintendent with scholarship totals. Ok, so here we go:
- **Orange High School** as of **May 12, 2025**, has amassed: **\$14,686,750.00**
- **STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges** as of **May 12, 2025**, has amassed: **\$14,940,882.00**
- **Total: \$29,627,632.00**
- We are so very proud of our scholars. Thank you to our fantastic staff at Orange High School and STEM Academy for working so closely with our scholars to ensure that they have the opportunities to amass millions of dollars in scholarships.
- **WE ARE WELL ON OUR WAY....MORE TO COME!**



# Heywood Avenue School & STEM Academy Named Project Lead the Way Distinguished Schools for SY 24-25

## Congratulations and We Are So Very Proud of You!!

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The Orange School District is proud to announce that Heywood Avenue School and STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges have been recognized as a 2025 Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Distinguished School for its commitment to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in transformative STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) education.

This honor, awarded by the national nonprofit organization Project Lead the Way, places STEM Academy and Heywood Avenue School among a select group of schools across the U.S. that have demonstrated strong performance in PLTW programs and a dedication to empowering students with real-world, hands-on learning experiences.

Dr. Fitzhugh shared, “We are honored to be named a PLTW Distinguished School. This recognition is a reflection of our educators' dedication, our students' enthusiasm for innovation and learning, and our community's support of high-quality STEM education. Preparing our students for the careers of tomorrow starts with opportunities like PLTW, and we remain committed to growing and sustaining these opportunities across our schools.”

Project Lead the Way offers pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, engaging students in collaborative, project-based learning that builds both technical knowledge and essential skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, and communication.

To be eligible for the Distinguished School designation, schools must meet several criteria that demonstrate success in program implementation, student participation, and equitable access.

# Attendance Presentation from the Month of April 2025

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Superintendent of Schools  
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May 14, 2025

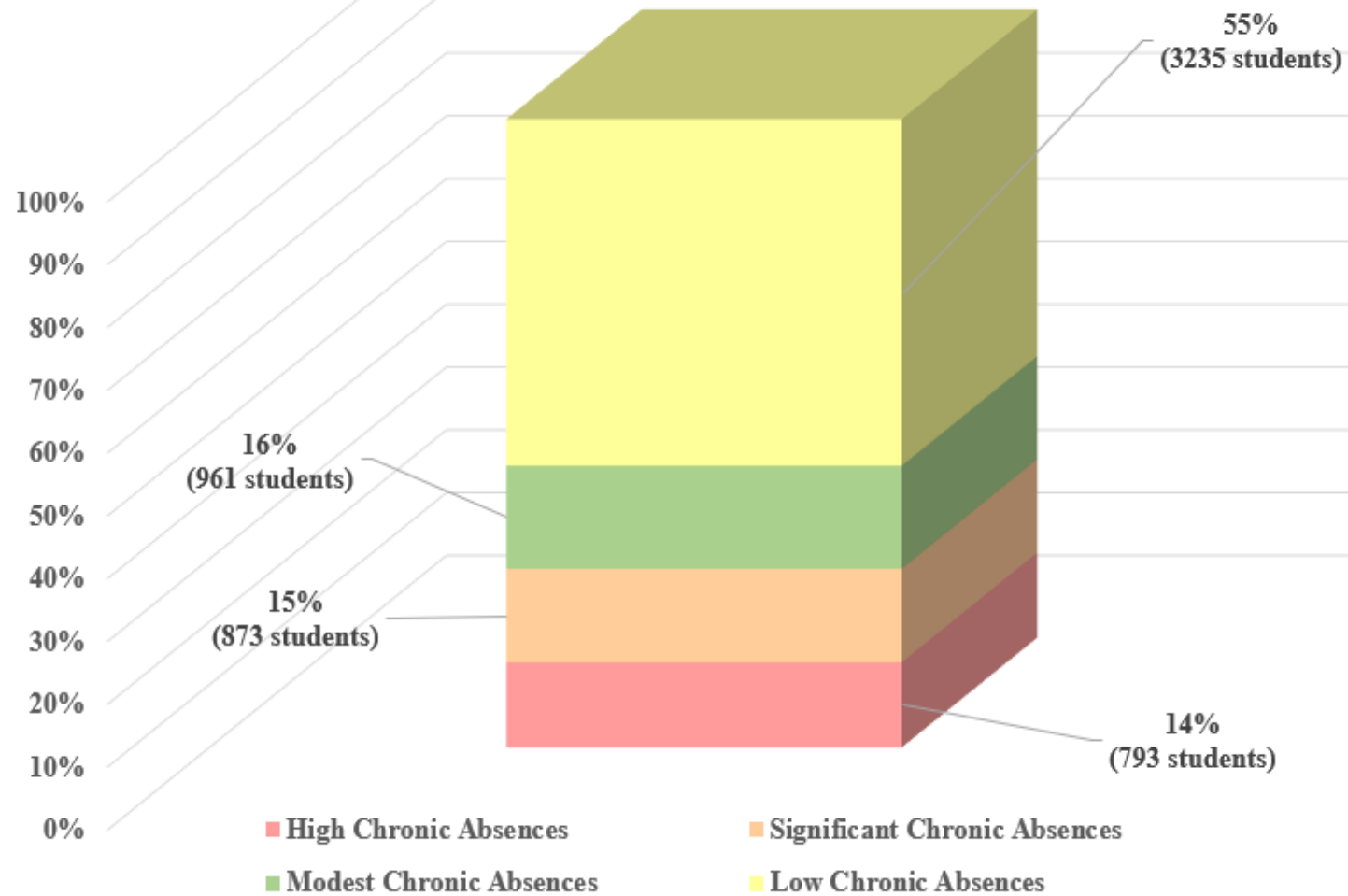


**Chronically  
Absence  
Categories  
are Identified  
As:**

Absences Category	Cumulative Days Absent for the Month of April 2025
Low Chronic Absences	0 to 6.99 days
Modest Chronic Absences	7 to 9.99 days
Significant Chronic Absences	10 to 13.99 days
High Chronic Absences	14 days or more

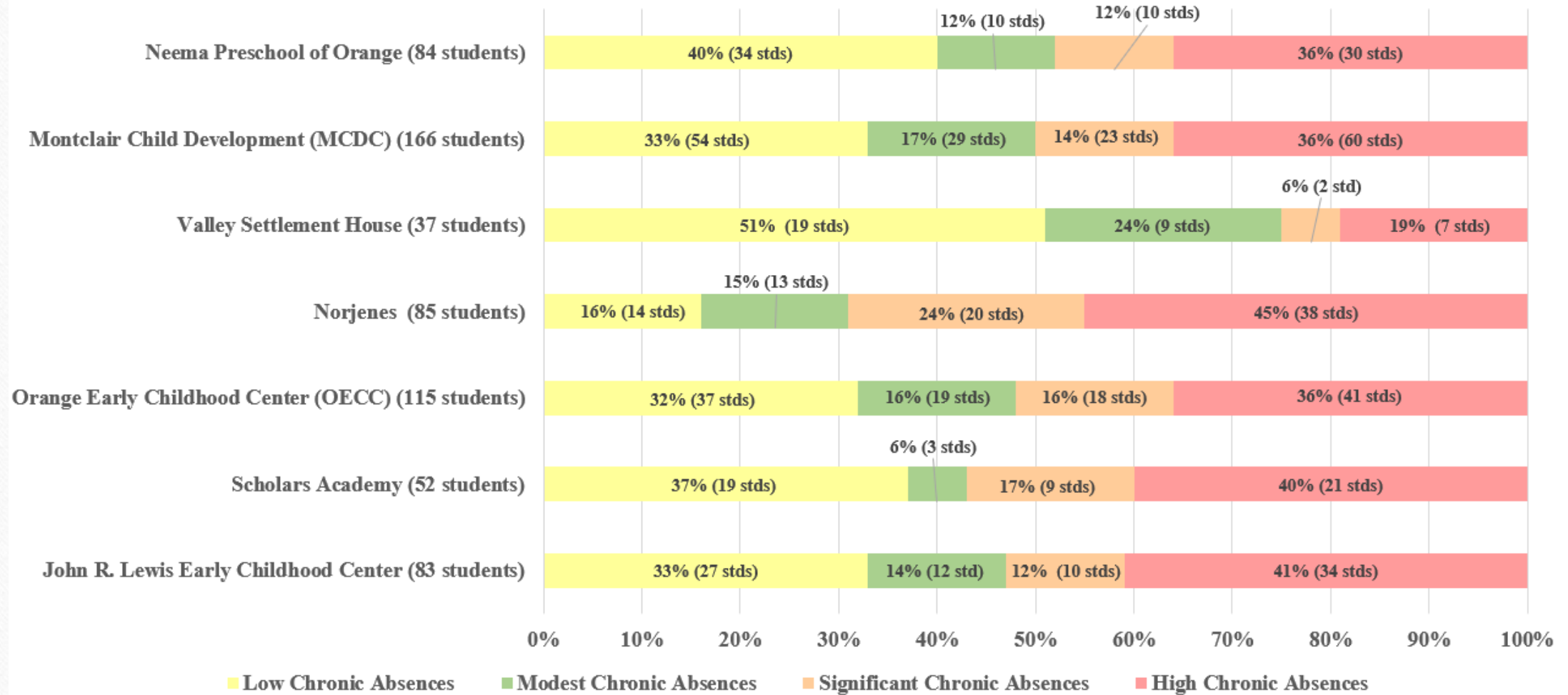
\*Students are chronically absent when excused or unexcused absences are equal to or greater than 10% of the total number of days enrolled in the school year.

## Cumulative Absences for the Month of April by Category

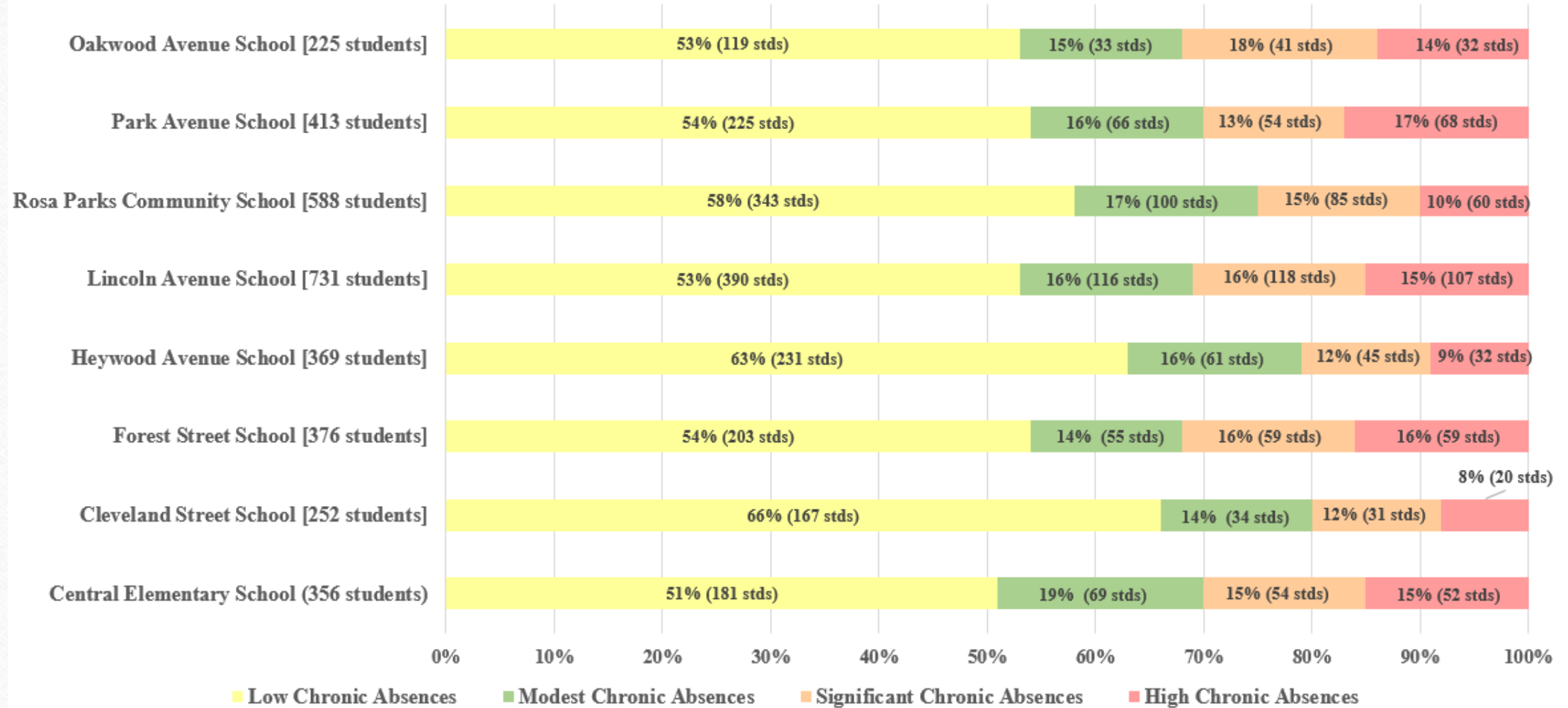




### Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of April Early Childhood Program

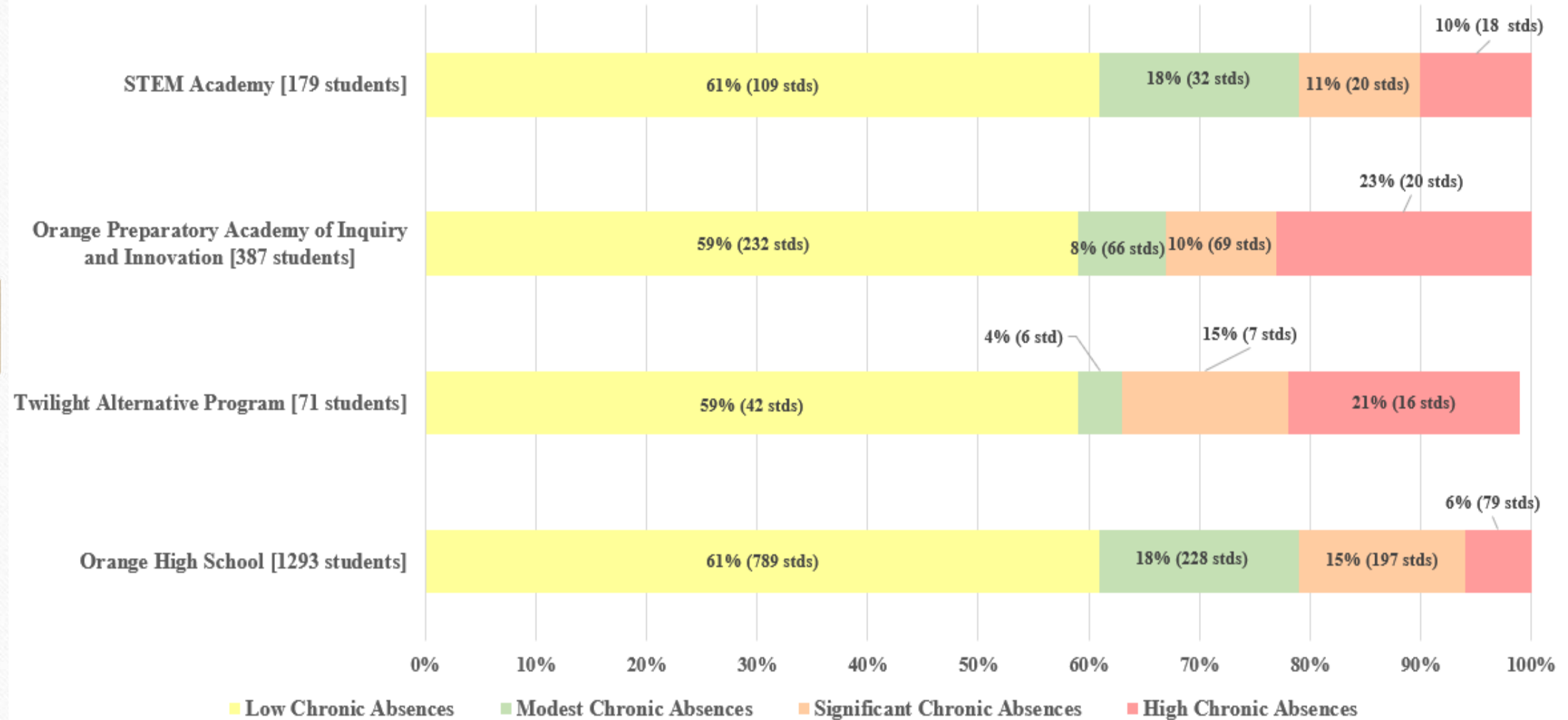


### Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of April Kindergarten through Grade 7

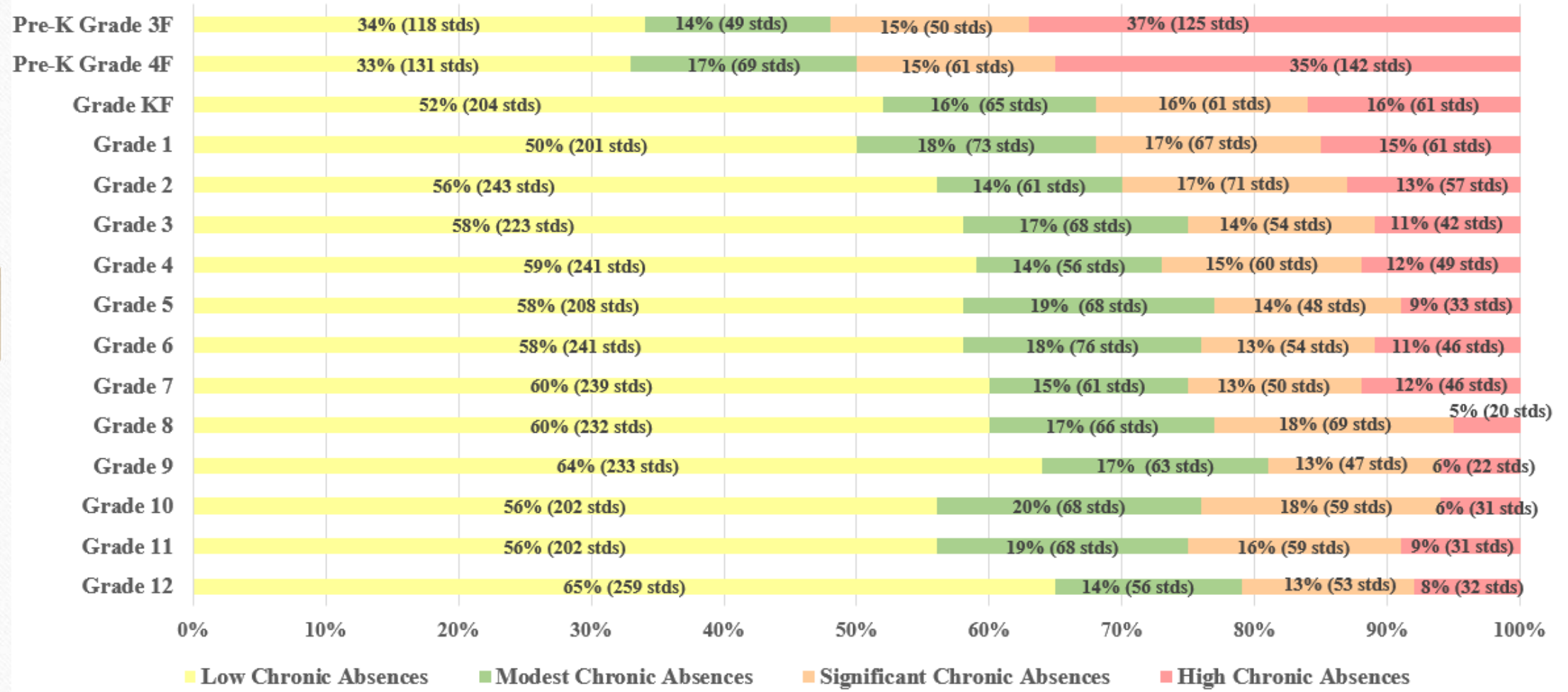




### Cumulative Absences by School for the Month of April Grades 8 through 12

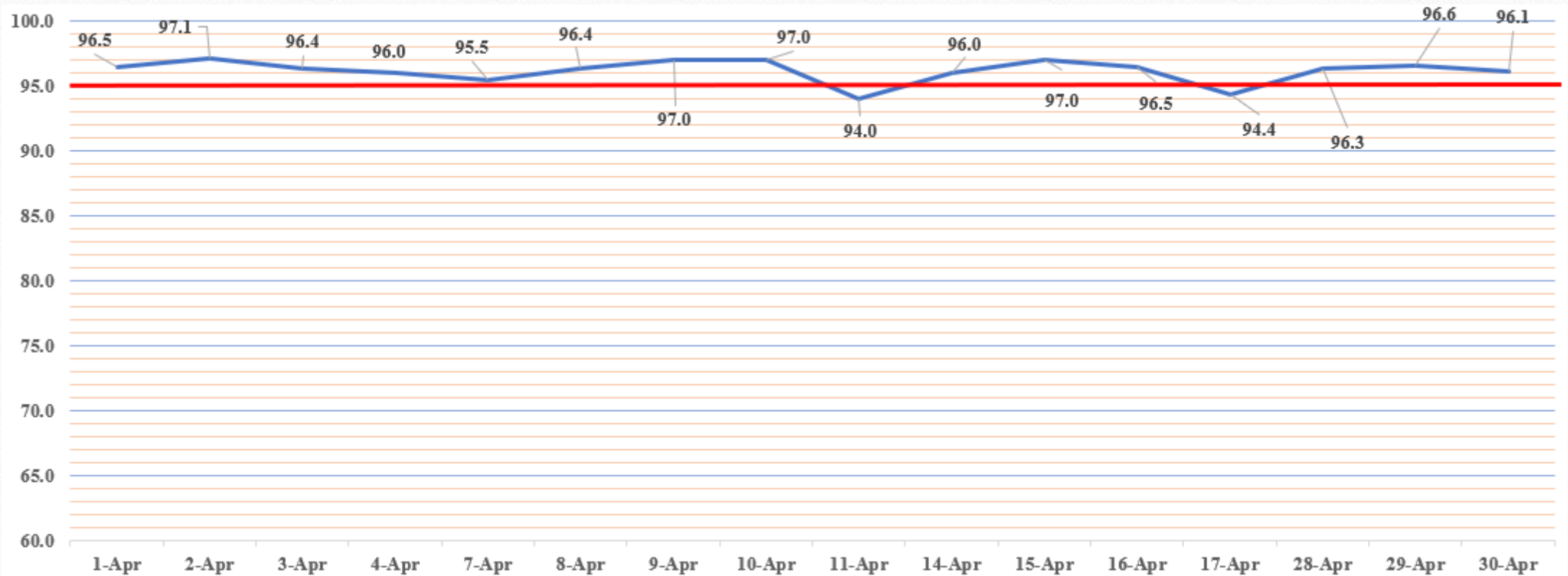


## Cumulative Absences for the Month of April by Grade Level





April 2025  
Average Daily Attendance Percentages  
**\*State Average is 95%**  
District Average Daily Attendance was 96%  
(Spring Break Observed from April 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025)





# Facilities Update

PRESENTED BY: MR. EDWIN VASQUEZ

MANAGER OF FACILITIES AND GROUNDS

MAY 14, 2025



# District Facility Maintenance & Custodial Services Updates

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Thorough cleaning and disinfecting occurs daily for all of our touch points in the building (examples include but are not limited to door handles, bathrooms, entrances, exits, and handrails)

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Walk-throughs of all district school facilities

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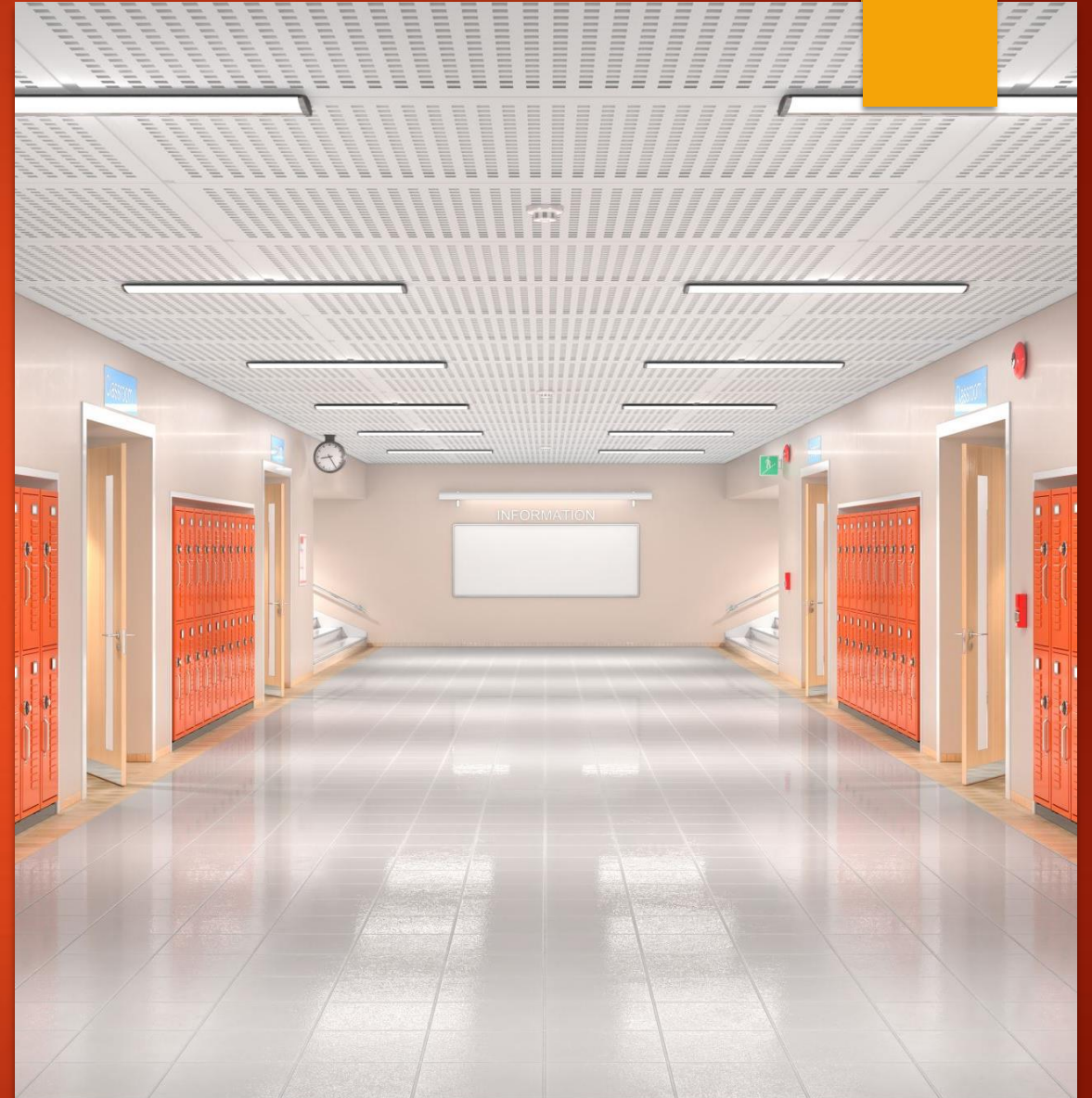
Meetings between the District and PCI are held regularly based on updates related to COVID-19 mandates and expectations

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Facility projects continue so we can ensure a safe and clean learning environment for our children and staff.

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# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ In April 2025, the facilities team actively tackled potential plumbing and roofing challenges to maintain our high operational standards. During our spring break, our custodial team conducted a deep clean, focusing on high-traffic areas such as the cafeteria and hallways. They ensured that all classrooms were cleaned to the standards set by the Facilities Department. We continued to address work orders and initiated our spring cleaning on the exterior of the buildings. This proactive approach positions us to enhance our facilities and deliver exceptional service to both staff and students.



# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ The following slides will present an overview of some of the work we have been conducting over the past month.



# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ At STEM, we decommissioned the oil tank that previously supplied fuel to our boilers. As we all know, we replaced the boiler last school year with an energy-efficient gas boiler.





# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ During Spring Break, we took the opportunity to give our gymnasium floor some TLC by screening and recoating it. The gymnasiums at Park Avenue School, STEM, and Cleveland Elementary School were completed.

# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ Work orders were addressed around the district including issues at the administrative office. During the annual bring your child to work day, the handrail in the stairwell was broken and needed to be securely re-attached to the wall.





# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ We are actively addressing the issue of roof leaks across our facilities. At present, we have engaged vendors who are working at Oakwood Ave School, Heywood Ave School, the Administration Building, Lincoln Avenue School, and Park Avenue School.





# Facilities Department Update

- ▶ Additional roof working being done at our schools.



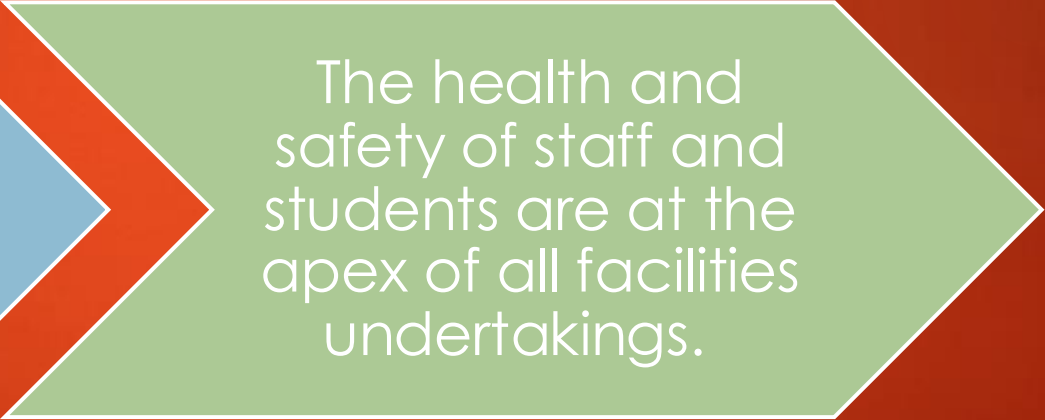
# In the Month of March 2025

- ▶ 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 punch-list items for construction at Orange High School and the Cleveland Street School Projects.

# 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.



# Snow Day Give Back Days

- Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> the District will be as this is one of the Snow Day Give Back Days.
- Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, the District will be closed for Memorial Day
- Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, the District will be as this is one of the Snow Day Give Back Days.
- Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, the District will be as this is one of the Snow Day Give Back Days.
- School Year 2024-2025 will end on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> for students and 10 month staff members. Please mark your calendars.

Reminder: The Orange  
App Have you signed up?  
You know I am sending blasts out for folks to sign up...Stay Tuned

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### Announcing the NEW Orange Public Schools Mobile App!



Designed specifically to keep you better informed, in REAL time!

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:

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3. Then select our **Orange Public Schools** app for free download

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**Download it today!**

# Orange Public Schools Social Media





## Social Media Hashtags:

#GoodtoGreat

#MovingintoGreatness

#OrangeStrong

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