



**OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY PLAN
2024-2025**

OVERVIEW

The District is committed to serving students equitably in alignment with its mission of “Inspiring all learners to reach their highest potential as responsible, productive citizens.” Realizing this foundational goal means focusing the necessary attention on each child as determined by his or her unique needs/interests. Each school year, the Superintendent involves hundreds of people, ranging from parents, students, community members, School Board members, and employees, in providing input and suggestions to guide the District to reach new heights of achievement in all areas. The District’s strategic plan acts as the roadmap that drives improvement efforts towards unlimited success for Osceola students, staff, and schools.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The District’s [2023-2024 Strategic Plan](#) outlines the district’s path forward to continuous improvement in five key areas: Academic Success, Talent Management, Fiscal Responsibility, Community Engagement and Governance, and School Safety and Security. The goals and associated strategies have been prioritized to continue to transform and provide opportunities for success for every child, every chance, every day and to best support the school communities. Academic success continues to be the district’s number one priority and the district is committed to providing rigorous programs and relevant 21st Century curriculum to all families.

DISTRICT FACTS

The District operates twenty-six elementary schools (K-5), five K-8 schools, nine middle schools (6-8), ten high schools (9-12), one fine arts school (6-12), one postsecondary technical education school with three branch campuses, one adult learning center with three branch campuses, two alternative education sites, and one virtual school program. For the 2024-2025 school year, the district enters the fourth year of a comprehensive 1:1 program, whereby all students in kindergarten through grade 12 will receive an iPad or laptop for use at school and home to support their academic work.

Florida Statute designates charter schools as public schools and, in our district, there are twenty-six charter schools. Additionally, there are more than fifty State-recognized private schools operating within District boundaries. District support facilities include an administration complex, two maintenance facilities, three transportation centers, a pre-kindergarten learning center, which also houses administrative departments, and a staff development site.

Osceola County agencies struggle to address growth effectively, and population increases have been a challenge for the District. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, the population in Osceola County is 390,341. Osceola County experienced the seventh highest percentage population increase in the nation in 2017-2018. The K-12 student enrollment as of November 21, 2024, is 73,830. To address growth on the east side of the county, the district opened a new middle school in 2019, a new K-8 school in 2024, assumed ownership of a charter K-8 school in 2020, and is constructing a new high school scheduled to open in 2027. Students in the Osceola School District represent 140 different countries and speak over 98 languages. More than 17,000 students (about 25 percent of the total student population) participate in the school district’s

English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program. The District is the largest employer in Osceola County with more than 8,000 staff members.

The District's post-secondary institution, Osceola Technical College (oTECH), works closely with secondary students, offering a variety of courses and certifications such as LPN, MOS, CCNA, A+, Network+, Security+ to make Osceola students job-ready upon graduation. The district's high school graduation rate stands at 91%. The district's graduation rate remains above the state average, which is evidence of the district's commitment to giving every child, every chance, every day.

For those choosing to pursue a post-secondary degree, several continuing education opportunities are available locally. oTECH offers many post-secondary, job-preparatory programs for adults and courses to support a variety of career choices. The Adult Learning Center Osceola (ALCO) offers ESOL, Adult Basic Education, and GED Preparation and Testing for adults. In addition, Valencia College/University of Central Florida have campuses in Osceola County. The district provides robust college and career planning to assist students prepare for college and careers beyond high school. SDOC4E highlights the four pathways available to students after high school: Enroll, Enlist, Employ & Explore.

PROFESSIONAL STAFFING/DEVELOPMENT

District Strategic Plan Goal Two, Talent Management, statement is to champion a culture that attracts, develops, and supports quality employees. Activities within this goal include strengthening the current leadership pipeline for school and operational leaders, aligning professional development opportunities with prioritized high-yield strategies, implement creative recruitment solutions, actively research and recruit from the schools and agencies that reflect our student population, and prioritize a competitive salary and benefits strategy.

The District actively promotes the successful integration of technology into the dynamic standards-aligned curriculum. Technology Resource Teachers (TRS) in the Media and Instructional Technology Department provide coaching and modeling for all teachers/schools. The TRSs coach, model, and train teachers to seamlessly integrate technology throughout instruction. They help teachers and students add tools to their tech toolkit to be more productive and better problem-solvers to become responsible productive digital citizens.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

In support of the Strategic Plan's Goal Three for Fiscal Responsibility, district finance officers employ fiscal management methods that integrate sound business practices to manage the 2024-2025 budget of \$2.021 billion. The district's commitment to wisely use its resources has resulted in minimal overhead and low per-student costs. The district has repeatedly earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of governmental accounting and financial reporting recognition. The Government Finance Officers Association bestowed this award for the district's comprehensive annual financial reports for the fiscal years ending each June 30, of 2007 through 2022.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Osceola County residents are informed about the individual public schools within the District, as well as the School Board and Osceola School District initiatives, most importantly by its web presence at <http://www.osceolaschools.net/>. Social media tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn are utilized, as well as a mobile app. School Board meeting agendas with associated documents, along with broadcasts of both live and recorded sessions are available for the public online.

The communication tool *Let's Talk!* is accessible through the District's website or a smartphone app. It gives parents, students, teachers, staff and community residents a safe, reliable way to reach district leaders whenever necessary. The goal is to build trust and interaction throughout the community with all stakeholders.

Here Comes the Bus is another program made available to parents of the more than 25,000 students who ride a school bus. Parents may view the real-time locations and confirm arrivals of their child's school bus on their smartphone, tablet or computer. It improves communication and enables parents to have information they need as their child is transported each day.

To meet the needs of students, teachers, and families, the District maintains partnerships (and memorandum agreements) with a myriad of local organizations. Examples of these collaborating entities include the City Governments of Kissimmee and St. Cloud; Osceola County Government; Education Foundation – Osceola County; Community Vision, Inc.; Osceola County Council on Aging; Florida Department of Health in Osceola County; Park Place Behavioral Health Care; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; and American Red Cross. Osceola County has public transportation, CareerSource Central Florida, and a number of non-profit community organizations prepared to offer assistance with food, shelter, employment, medical health, education, and legal services, which are vital connections for families in the District. Such joint efforts support District Strategic Plan Goal Four for Community Engagement and Governance.

TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

In the effort to inspire all learners to “reach their highest potential”, a primary focus is digital learning using computing devices. The District's objective is to provide superior customer support for every facet of teaching and learning with technology. The students, teachers and administrators must have the best devices possible for use on the safest network possible. To that end, the District has adopted various policies and the School Board has established rules related to technology use and data security.

Type of Policy	Summary of Policy/School Board Rule	Web Address
Student data safety, security, and privacy	Chapter 5.70*+ STUDENT RECORDS	School Board Rules
Employment & Faculty Handbooks	Employment Administration Handbook SDOC Employee Handbook	Employment Handbooks
Student Use of Personal Technology	School Board Rules <ul style="list-style-type: none">• STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY, 8.63+• STUDENT CONTROL Chapter 5.30*+• Internet Safety, 8.602• Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use, 8.603 Code of Student Conduct Student Internet and Network Use Procedures	School Board Rules Code of Student Conduct Information and Technology Division
Acceptable/Responsible Use policy (student, teachers, admin)	Chapter 8.00 – Auxiliary Services NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE, 8.60+	School Board Rules

NETWORK CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to support the curriculum delivered digitally, as well as computer-based assessments, the District has continued to update the network bandwidth capacity. Reliable, adequate wireless connectivity is paramount for students, faculty, and staff. The District increases its Internet connection and its Wide Area Network (WAN) bandwidth capacity commensurate to the needs of its school facilities.

The capacity of each school’s infrastructure equipment (switches, cabling, and wireless access points) and the on-site equipment owned and configured by the ISP are two of many determining factors when the District contemplates increasing bandwidth throughput to the student desktops or wireless devices. The condition of infrastructure equipment in schools is constantly monitored. Aging equipment is regularly assessed to determine the ability to support future bandwidth requirements, and necessary upgrades are identified. Long range planning for future infrastructure projects is constant.

Network infrastructure equipment purchases are funded in large part by the support received through the Universal Service Administrative Company’s (USAC) E-rate program. The District must re-apply annually for funding support for eligible products/services, including network infrastructure equipment. The District is currently upgrading the switch gear at eight schools for the 2024-2025 cycle of E-rate program funding.

Deliverable	Estimated Completion Date	School
Purchase and install upgraded switches in MDF/IDF to support connectivity	September 2025	Cypress Elementary School Flora Ridge Elementary School Highlands Elementary School Koa Elementary School Narcoossee Elementary School Neptune Elementary School Pleasant Hill Elementary School Poinciana High School

Because the district has a five-year E-rate program budget limit, the funds may be exhausted before aging, end-of-life switch gear can be replaced. So, another invaluable funding source is the approved sales tax referendum. In this way, the community supports the district’s on-going efforts to refresh network infrastructure and necessary equipment in its schools. Projects scheduled in 2024-2025 using this funding source are:

Deliverable	School
Purchase and/or Install new Network Switches, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), Wireless Access Points	Transportation – Kissimmee District Campus – Buildings 3, 4, 5 & 6 District Data Center – Main Campus

To protect the security of the network and minimize “denial of service” attacks, the District has contracted with its ISP to use a “threat management system”. The District uses a myriad of security measures, web filtering and firewall technology to protect all users in the network environment.