



# Okeechobee County Schools

The Successful  
Student  
2017-2018



**A parent guide prepared by the  
Okeechobee County School District  
to help you assist your child in achieving excellence!**

Consulte con el Consejero escolar de su hijo/a en la búsqueda de recursos en esta guía.



Superintendent

Ken Kenworthy



# School District of Okeechobee County

863-462-5000

700 S. W. Second Avenue  
Okeechobee, Florida 34974

Fax 863-462-5151

**Board Chairperson:**

Malissa Morgan

**Board Vice Chairperson:**

Jill Holcomb

**Board Members:**

Joe Arnold

Dixie Ball

Amanda Fuchswanz

Welcome to Okeechobee County Schools! We are glad you are part of our team and pledge to make your student prepared for both college and their career.

Throughout this guide, you will find many opportunities exist in this district. If we both, together, take advantage of the coursework, services and activities both inside and outside the classroom that are available to students we can help them reach their future goals.

This school year we are ushering in a new elementary reading curriculum and social studies curriculum district-wide. Every student will have their very own digital device in grades 2-12. We will rise to the challenge of District Accreditation in 2018. We have extended math and English Language Arts times at middle school. We have introduced a new innovative Algebra curriculum at the 9th grade. Our AVID program has been so successful at the secondary level we are expanding into three elementary schools this year. We are enhancing our mental health services and are focusing on making every campus and bus safe by preventing bullying.

In an effort to get students ready for Pre-K and Kindergarten, we have launched an early literacy program Footsteps2Brilliance. The curriculum is available to all students birth through 2nd grade. If your child is not yet in school, please visit [www.myf2b.com/register/okee](http://www.myf2b.com/register/okee) and have them begin increasing both their vocabulary and critical thinking skills. The site is free to anyone in Okeechobee's zip code.

Our graduation rate continues to climb, our proficiency rates are up in every achievement area and we could not be more proud of the number of students earning industry certifications and participating in dual enrollment.

We cannot stop here. We need your help. Become involved with your child's education. Volunteer at your child's school. Ask questions. Be informed. One of the greatest impacts you can have on your child's education is being present.

Speaking of present. Help us begin preparing your child for their future career by learning good habits like being at school on time every day.

Our employers expect it from us and we should be instilling that employment skill in our students while they are in school.

We look forward to a great school year. Your child's success depends on us working together to provide the very best education possible.

Sincerely,

Ken Kenworthy

Superintendent of Schools



## 2017-2018 Progress Report and Report Card Schedule

### First Nine-Weeks

Monday	September	11	Send Progress Reports Home
Friday	October	13	Last day of Nine-Week Grading Period
Tuesday	October	24	Report Card Day (All Schools)

### Second Nine-Weeks

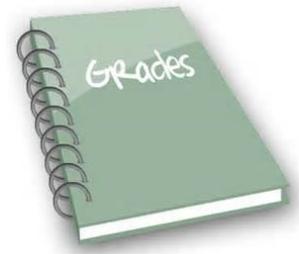
Wednesday	November	15	Send Progress Reports Home
Friday	December	22	Last Day of Nine-Week Grading Period
Thursday	January	18	Report Card Day (All Schools)

### Third Nine-Weeks

Monday	February	12	Send Progress Reports Home
Thursday	March	15	Last Day of Nine-Week Grading Period
Tuesday	April	03	Report Card Day (All Schools)

### Fourth Nine-Weeks

Wednesday	April	25	Send Progress Reports Home
Friday	May	25	Last Day of Nine-Week Grading Period
Tuesday	June	19	Report Cards Mailed/Available for Pick-Up at School Elementary
Friday	June	22	Report Cards (Middle Schools, OFC & OHS)



### Parent preparation for a successful school year

The following items will help keep you up to date on school activities and ready to respond to the big and little crises your child may have.

- A current school calendar showing holidays, early release days, teacher workdays, and school grading periods (see inside cover of this guide);
- Phone numbers for your child's school and the District Office (see back cover of this guide);
- The Okeechobee County School's Code of Student Conduct which describes what behavior is unacceptable in school and how students are disciplined if they commit a violation;
- School Attendance guidelines;
- Student Progression Plan;
- Skyward Family and Student Access, more information on page 29;
- Information on the Free and Reduced Priced Meals;
- Information on the Florida KidCare Insurance Plan;
- Student Agenda: contain information on the dress code, school rules and an excellent source for parents to communicate daily with teachers.
- The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) printed on pages 4 and 5 of this guide.

This information is distributed and discussed at the start of each school year. Additional copies are available at each school site or may be obtained at <http://www.okee.k12.fl.us/>

### Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

A good way to find out how your child is doing in school is through a parent-teacher conference. The teacher may request a conference or you may request a meeting. Listed are some tips for having a successful parent-teacher conference:

- Make a list of questions and concerns you have and write them down.
- Keep track of your child's schoolwork to help you with your questions.
- Listen to what the teacher has to say and ask questions if you do not understand what the teacher is trying to tell you.
- Schedule a follow-up appointment if necessary.
- Try to work with the teacher to help your child; teamwork is the best approach.

Here are some questions to keep in mind:

- Is my child performing at grade level?
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social studies?
- How much time should my child be spending on homework?
- Are my child's assignments being completed correctly and on time?
- Do you have a folder of my child's work? Will you review it with me?
- Does my child get along with the other students?
- Does the school have special programs to meet my child's needs?
- What can I do at home to support what is happening in the classroom?
- What is the best way to keep in touch with you?



**Okeechobee County School District**

**Parent Self-Assessment Checklist**

The purpose of the parent checklist is to provide parents with research based information on the types of parental behaviors that tend to promote student achievement. As you read through the questions posed below, see if you are doing all you can do to make your child's education as successful and enjoyable as possible. This survey is intended to stimulate thought and discussion in your home.

<b>Focus on Attitude</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
Do I continually stress to my child the importance of education and doing one's best in school?		
Do I frequently express to my child my belief in their ability to be successful?		
Am I helpful in setting short and long term goals for my child?		
Do I celebrate with my child when they do well in school?		
<b>Focus on Academics</b>		
Do I support my child's reading with age appropriate home activities?		
Do I provide a consistent time and place to do homework?		
Do I ensure that my child has access to materials needed to complete homework assignments?		
Do I provide a place in my home that is conducive to doing homework?		
Do I follow up to see that the homework is completed and turned in on time?		
Do I regularly discuss and ask to see what my child is doing in school?		
Do I read and sign my child's progress reports and report cards?		
Do I attend "Open House" and "Conference Night" at my child's school?		
Do I attend workshops on helping my child at home?		
Do I encourage my child to do well in school?		
<b>Focus on Behavior</b>		
Do I monitor my child's television/computer/video game viewing?		
Do I encourage my child to accept responsibility for his/her actions?		
Am I aware of the school's Code of Student Conduct?		
Do I reinforce those school expectations?		
Are there appropriate consequences when he/she does not meet those expectations?		
<b>Focus on Building Responsibility</b>		
Do I ensure that my child has a regular routine?		
Do I make sure my child begins his/her day with a healthy breakfast?		
Do I ensure that my child gets a good night's sleep and is well rested each day?		
Do I encourage my child to accept responsibility for his/her actions?		
Do I praise my child when he/she follows through with responsibilities?		
Do I make sure my child attends school each day?		
Do I ensure that my child gets to school on time each day?		
Do I monitor and promote my child's participation in extracurricular and after-school activities?		
<b>Focus on School/Home Connections</b>		
Do I communicate regularly with my child's teacher in person, by e-mail or through writing?		
Do I prepare for and attend teacher conferences or other individualized student meetings concerning my child?		
Do I attend my child's school functions such as: open house, science fairs, plays, musical events, class trips, sporting events, conference nights, or other school activities?		
Do I volunteer in my child's school when possible?		

**For information regarding how you can become even more involved in your child's education contact your child's school.  
 Thank you for your cooperation and support Okeechobee County Schools:  
 ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE: PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST.**

## Student Records Privacy Rights of Students and Parents

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g (FERPA), and corollary state law, Section 1002.22, Fla. Statute affords parents and students who have attained 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

The **right of privacy** with respect to the student's education records.

Personally identifiable records or reports of a student, and any personal information contained in those reports, are confidential. The School District of Okeechobee County will not release the education records of a student without the written consent of the eligible student or the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), except to the extent FERPA and state law authorized disclosure without consent.

The **right to inspect and review** the student's education record within 30 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

The **right to request the amendment** of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask Okeechobee County School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading.

If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

The **right to consent to disclosures** of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health person or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

The Okeechobee County School District will forward educational and disciplinary records to other schools that have requested records and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll (34 CFR §§ 99.7 and 99.34(a)(1)(ii)).

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

The **right to file a complaint** with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Florida Statute, 1002.22, provides that an educational institution may, without authorization from parents, guardians, or eligible students, release "Directory Information". Directory information includes the following:

Student's name, address, telephone listing if not an unlisted number, date and place of birth, a major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, most recent educational institution attended by student, photographs in the school year book and similar information.

U.S. Code 20 U.S.C.S. 7908 requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide military recruiters with the name, address, and telephone listing of secondary student.

If any parent, guardian, or student above the age of 18 years objects to the release of such information, he/she shall make known the objections, in writing, to the Superintendent by September 15th of the school year. The School Board shall release directory information after 30 days public notice has been given.



## **PROTECTION OF PUPIL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (PPRA) NOTICE**

Pursuant to the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 USC §1232h; 34 CFR Part 98), parents, guardians, or eligible students (over the age of 18 or emancipated) have certain rights pertaining to surveys, the collection and use of information for marketing purposes, and certain physical exams. These rights are as follows:

1. The right to give prior written consent before students are required to submit to surveys concerning protected information (regarding political affiliation or beliefs; mental or psychological problems of the student or student's family, sex behavior or attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior; critical appraisal of others with whom survey respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged relationships, such as with lawyers, doctors, or ministers; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or parents; or income, other than as required by law to determine program eligibility) if the survey is funded in whole or in part by a program of the U.S. Department of Education.
2. The right to opt a student out of participation in any other protected information survey, regardless of funding.
3. The right to opt a student out of any non-emergency invasive physical exam or screening required as a condition of school attendance administered by the school or its agent, and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of a student. The right to opt out does not apply to hearing, vision, scoliosis or body mass index screenings, or any physical exam or screening permitted or required under State law, except on grounds of religious beliefs or physician certifications pursuant to F.S. 1003.22(5).
4. The right to opt a student out of activities involving the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information obtained from students for marketing or to sell or otherwise distribute the information to others, and
5. The right to inspect, upon request and prior to administration or use (a) protected information surveys of students, (b) instruments used to collect personal information from students for any marketing, sales, or distribution purposes, and (c) instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum.

The District will ensure that student privacy is protected in the administration of protected information surveys and the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information for marketing, sales, or other distribution purposes.

The District will directly notify parents of their PPRA rights at least annually at the start of each school year and after any substantive changes. The District will also directly notify (including, but not limited to, mail, e-mail, in-person, or by acknowledgement form) parents of students who are scheduled to participate in the specific activities or surveys noted above and will provide an opportunity for the parent to opt his or her child out of participation of the specific activity or survey. The District will make this notification to parents at the beginning of the school year if the District has identified the specific or approximate dates of the activities or surveys at that time. For surveys and activities scheduled after the school year starts, parents will be provided reasonable notification of the planned activities and surveys and will be provided an opportunity to opt their child out of such activities and surveys and to review any pertinent surveys.

Those who believe their rights have been violated may file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202. If you wish to discuss and try to resolve any PPRA concerns before contacting the Family Policy Compliance Office, you may contact the School Board of Okeechobee County, Director of Student Services (863) 462-5000 ext. 260.

***The Okeechobee Education Records Manual is set forth in District Manual 2.60, Student Education Records. The manual is available for inspection at the District Administration office located at 700 S.W. 2 Avenue, Okeechobee, Florida, during regular office hours Monday—Friday. A copy of the policy may be obtained free of charge, upon request.***

## School District of Okeechobee County Notification of Social Security Number Collection and Usage

In compliance with Florida Statute 119.071(5), this document serves to notify you of the purpose for the collection of your child's social security number. The Okeechobee County School Board will collect and use your child's social security number only if specifically authorized by law to do so or when it is imperative for the performance of its duties and responsibilities as prescribed by law.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact the Okeechobee County School Board Office at (863) 462-5000.

<b>A student's social security number may be required for:</b>
State of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program
Local scholarship applications (Take Stock in Children, etc.)
Verification of Income Eligibility for Federal Free and Reduced Lunches
Medicaid Reimbursement
General Educational Development (GED) Application
Social Security Income Verification and Assistance
Developmental Services
Data tracking for the Florida Education and Training Placement Program
Managing Student Records in the Automated Student Database
Matching of records between the Florida Department of Education and the Kindergarten screening data for Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Provider Readiness Rate
Reporting Excessive Absences to the Department of Motor Vehicles
Documents and Reports for the Department of Juvenile Justice and law enforcement agencies as required
The Florida Department of Health as required
Forwarding records requests to other school districts where the student seeks to enroll or to request records of past attendance
Dual Enrollment in college courses
Other purposes specifically required or authorized by local, state or federal law

### NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

The School District of Okeechobee County has adopted Board Policy 6.43, Unlawful Discrimination Prohibited. No person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, pregnancy, age, national or ethnic origin, genetic information, political beliefs, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, if otherwise qualified, social and family background or on the basis of the use of a language other than English by Limited English Proficiency (LEP) students, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity, or in any employment conditions or practices conducted by this School District, except as provided by law.

The School District of Okeechobee County shall comply with all federal and state laws which include the Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), Title IX, Section 504, Florida Education Equity Act, Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA), Genetic Information Non-Discrimination Act of 2008 (GINA), and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

Any employee, student, applicant for admissions, or applicant for employment who believes he/she has been discriminated against or has been harassed by another employee, student, or third party is encouraged to use the Equity Plan Grievance Procedure for filing complaints. Complaints may be filed with the principal or immediate supervisor, District Equity Coordinator/Director of Human Resources or the Superintendent.

Director of Human Resources  
Title II, Title IX and the Florida Education Equity Act Complaints and  
ADA/Section 504 Complaints  
700 SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Okeechobee, FL 34974  
(863) 462-5000 Ext. 267

## Ready to start school?

Please contact the administration office of the school you are zoned for based on your permanent home address. If you are uncertain of the school you are zoned for, you may contact the Director of Student Services, at (863) 462-5000 Ext. 260, to get that information. To enroll your child in school you must complete a registration packet provided by the school. The packet includes questions regarding your demographic information, requires proof of address and a copy of previous schooling information. In addition, before admitting a child to kindergarten, the principal shall require evidence that the child has attained the age at which he or she should be admitted in accordance with the provisions of subparagraph Florida Statute 1003.21 (1)(a)2. The district school superintendent may require evidence of the age of any child whom he or she believes to be within the limits of compulsory attendance as provided for by law. If the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable as listed in (4) (a-g) will be required.

The school district has a policy to provide for appropriate screening of its students for scoliosis at the proper age.

## Immunization Requirements

Each child entering a Florida public or private school must present or have on file at the school, a Florida Certification of Immunization (Department of Health Form 680, copies are not accepted). Immunizations must be valid and up-to-date for age and grade level as required by the State of Florida. The following is a summary of these requirements.



### **Public/Non-Public Schools Kindergarten through 12th Grade:**

- Four or five doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTaP) vaccine
- Two or three doses of hepatitis B (Hep B) vaccine
- Three, four, or five doses of IPV (with at least one dose of polio vaccine administered after the 4th birthday)
- Two doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine
- Two doses of Varicella\* (needed for Kindergarten through 6th grade for the 2014-2015 school year)
- One dose of varicella vaccine\* for grades four through ten
- \*Varicella vaccine is not required if there is a history of varicella documented by the healthcare provider.

### **Seventh Grade Requirement:**

In addition to compliance with all other required immunizations, children entering, attending, or transferring to the seventh, eighth, or ninth grade in Florida schools must complete the following:

- One dose of tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine

The original Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680, copies are not accepted) must be used to document immunization requirements for admittance through grade 12.

This form must be completed with the child's name, date of birth, parents/guardians name, the name of the physician or clinic, physician or clinic address and the signature of physician or the authorized designee. This form must show that the child is up-to-date with the required immunizations. Any student transferring from another Florida school may be given a 30-day temporary exemption until the certification of immunization can be obtained from the previous school. If the record cannot be obtained from the previous school within this time frame, it is the parent's responsibility to provide such a copy. Any student from out-of-state must present an up-to-date Form 680 at time of enrollment. If you have any questions, please call the Okeechobee County Health Department at (863) 462-5792.

### **School Physical Exam:**

Each child who is entitled to admittance to pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, or is entitled to any other initial entrance into a public or non-public school in the state of Florida, must present a certification of a school entry physical examination performed within one year (12 months) prior to enrollment in school.

Any student transferring from another school in the United States may be given a 30-day temporary exemption until the certification of a school entry physical examination can be obtained from the previous school. If the record cannot be obtained from the previous school within this time frame, it is the parent's responsibility to provide such a copy. Any student from out-of-state must present an up-to-date Form 680 at time of enrollment.

If you have any questions, please call the Okeechobee County Health Department at (863) 462-5792.

# ***Consider perfect attendance...only 180 days of school each year!***

School attendance is the responsibility of the parent and student. Since there is a strong relationship between attendance and academic performance, it is important that parents take an active role in working with the school to ensure their child's attendance on a daily basis. State law requires that all students between the ages of six and eighteen attend school regularly. Failure to comply with this law could result in the arrest of the parent or legal guardian responsible for the child.

**Absences** are classified as *excused* or *unexcused*. School Board policy lists the reasons for which an absence may be excused.



## **Excused Absences:**

- Illness or injury of the student
- Illness or injury to the student's immediate family necessitating the student's absence
- Death to a member of the student's family necessitating the student's absence
- Recognized religious holidays of the specific faith of a student
- Doctor and dental appointments of the student
- Pre-arranged absences of educational value and with the principal's approval
- Subpoena or forced absence by any law enforcement agency
- Major disaster that would justify absence in the judgment of the administration
- Head lice, a maximum of two days per incident

It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to provide written or oral notification indicating the reason for the absences within two (2) days of the student's return to school.

## **Unexcused Absences:**

- Any absence which is not justified by the parent or guardian or for which the reason is unknown
- Not attending class while on a school campus (skipping)
- In grades K-8, an accumulation of five unexcused tardies/early checkouts will convert to an unexcused absence. These absences are considered when calculating absences towards truancy. In addition, these absences are considered when awarding perfect attendance.
- Final determination on whether an absence is excused or unexcused is the responsibility of the principal

## **Absences of Students Grade 9 –12**

- In order for a student to earn credit in a course, a student should not be absent more than nine days per semester. A student who exceeds nine unexcused absences in a course may earn credit in that class by earning a passing grade in at least one of the two nine weeks grading periods, and pass a comprehensive semester exam for that course.

Minors between 14 and 18 years of age who accumulate 15 unexcused absences in any 90-calendar-day period, will not be issued a learner's permit or will have their driver's license suspended.

***“The will to win, the desire to succeed,  
the urge to reach your full potential...  
these are the keys that will unlock the door to personal excellence.”  
Confucius***





**Rules  
for  
School  
Bus  
Riders:**

(The Code of Conduct applies in the bus as well as in the classroom.)

**At the bus stop:** Students and parents are responsible for safety and proper student behavior.

- Students must stand at least 10 feet back from the roadway while waiting.
- Students must respect other people's property.
- Students must not push, shove, or engage in horseplay.
- Students must arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the scheduled pickup time.
- Students must wait for and get off the bus only at approved stop locations.
- Parents should supervise children at the stop.



**During loading and unloading:** Always stay away from the 10 foot "danger zone" around the bus, except when you are directed by the driver.

- NEVER pick up an object that you drop under or near the bus. Ask the driver for help.
- Always make sure the driver can see you, never walk behind the bus.
- Make sure clothing and backpacks have no loose drawstrings or long straps that could catch in the handrail or bus door.
- When you see the bus coming, stand at the stop and wait for the bus to come to a complete stop.
- Always wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross the road and/or load into the bus.
- When crossing a traffic lane, always look left, right, then left again; cross only if approaching traffic has stopped.
- Only board your assigned bus, unless other arrangements are approved by your school.
- Never approach a moving bus.

**During the bus ride:** Always follow the driver's directions.

- Never distract the driver unless there is immediate danger to you or others.
- Remain seated with your seat belt fastened, keep the aisles clear, always keep your arms, legs, and head inside the bus.
- Eating, drinking, and chewing gum are prohibited unless an exception has been approved for a trip approved by the Superintendent or designee.
- Never bring unauthorized items into the bus.
- Always wear your seat belt when one is available.



**Walking:** Walk with an adult or responsible older child at all times.

- Children under 10 years old should cross the street only with an adult or when directed by a bus driver.
- Walk on the sidewalk if there is one.
- Walk facing the traffic, as far from the road/traffic as possible, if no sidewalk is available.
- Use traffic signals and marked crosswalks if available.
- Stop at the curb or edge of the road and look left, right and left for traffic before crossing the street.
- Walk; don't run.
- Give drivers time to see you before crossing the street.
- Keep looking for cars while you are crossing.
- Wear white clothing or reflectors when walking in the dark or in low light.

**Biking: (Riders must follow Florida Traffic Laws.)** Always wear a helmet that is properly fitted.

- Whenever possible, ride with an adult or responsible older student.
- Always obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Ride on the right side of the road or trail in a single file (one bicycle behind another).
- Ride in the same direction as other vehicles. Go straight across railroad tracks.
- Always use proper hand signals when turning and stopping.
- Yield to pedestrians and alert them with a bicycle bell or your voice when passing.

**Tips  
for  
Walking  
and  
Biking  
Safely:**



**Protecting  
Children  
from  
Sexual  
Offenders  
and  
Predators:**

**Talk to your children about following these tips:**

- Stay away from an unfamiliar person who is trying to trick you or force you to go with him or her.
- Let your parents and other trusted adults know about any suspicious person or situations.
- Learn to describe people and vehicles.
- Know where to run and how to forcibly resist capture.
- Scream to be seen and to scare a stranger away.
- Stay with a buddy, a group, or parents at the bus stop.
- Report anyone hanging around or passing by regularly.
- Walk or bike along a route that your parents have determined is safe.
- Lock the door and never tell callers you are home alone.



## **Right To Know Qualifications of Teachers**

The Okeechobee County School Board is committed to providing information to you regarding your child's teacher and paraprofessional qualifications in a timely manner upon request.

At any time, you may ask:

- If the teacher meets state qualifications and certification requirements for the grade level and subject he/she is teaching
- If the teacher has received an emergency or conditional certificate through which state qualifications were waived
- What undergraduate or graduate degrees the teacher holds, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration
- Whether your child receives help from a paraprofessional, and if so, his/her qualifications The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), signed into law in December 2015, contains additional parent right to know requests, including:
  - Information on policies regarding student participation in assessments and procedures for opting out
  - Information on required assessments including: Subject matter tested, Purpose of the test, Source of the requirement (if applicable), Amount of time it takes students to complete the test, Time and format of distributing results.

All of the above information can be requested through your school principal.

## **Student Progression**

Each student's progression from one grade to another is determined, in part, by proficiency in reading, writing, science, and mathematics. The Okeechobee County School Board has established the following comprehensive program for student progression:

- ◆ Evidence of a student's performance will be reflected by grades assigned in accordance with the district adopted grading policy.
- ◆ Students who score below **level 3** in English Language Arts and mathematics and below a 5 on the statewide assessments are considered for remediation.
- ◆ Appropriate alternative placement for a student who has been retained 2 or more years.
- ◆ A copy of the Student Progression Plan can be obtained at <http://www.okee.k12.fl.us/>.

### ***Bus Pass Procedure (School Board Policy 8.21)***

All requests for use of an ongoing alternate bus stop location must be given in writing to the school annually. The alternate bus stop must be in the same attendance zone and the alternate stop will replace the home stop. Students will not be transported to different stops on different days of the week. For example, a parent may arrange for a student to be bused to the nearest existing bus stop to their work location or a sitter's home (assuming it is within the attendance zone of the school). The student will not be bused to that alternate stop on some days and directly to home on other days. If circumstances change (for example, due to a job change), a new request may be submitted. However, serial requests will not be considered.

Emergency bus passes may be requested for a specific day, but only for actual emergencies. Bus passes will not be issued simply for convenience, recreational purposes or for occasional use. Requests may be faxed to your child's school in an emergency.



## Promotion Requirements

The promotion requirements for students in Okeechobee public schools can be found in detailed form in the Okeechobee County School District *Student Progression Plan*.

### Elementary School (grades K-5)

- Students shall demonstrate satisfactory progress in reading and mathematics as measured by state assessments and locally determined criteria.
- Third Grade – To emphasize the importance of being able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, the State of Florida has mandated that any third grade student who scores Level 1 on the reading portion of FSA must be retained unless he/she meets the criteria for Good Cause Promotion.

### Middle School (grades 6-8)

Promotion decisions for middle school students are based on the following considerations:

1. The student must pass 5 out of 6 courses. In order to pass a course the student must earn a passing grade in three of the four grading periods.
2. Final promotion decisions shall be made by the principal.

To be promoted from middle school a student must successfully complete:

- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in English (1 successfully completed course in reading may be substituted for an English course that the student has taken but not passed);
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Mathematics;
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Science;
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Social Studies including a semester-long or year-long course in Civics;

### High School (grades 9-12)

- At the high school level promotion to the next grade level is dependent upon a student earning the required number of credits.

#### Required Credits:

	<b>(24 Credit Option)</b>		<b>(18 Credit Option)</b>	
	<b>End of Academic-Year</b>	<b>Mid-Year*</b>	<b>End of Academic Year</b>	<b>Mid-Year*</b>
Total credits to graduate	24**	24**	18	
Credits to become a Senior	17	20.5	13	15.5
Credits to become a Junior	11	13.5	8	8.5
Credits to become a Sophomore	5	7.5	5	6

\*Students may apply for mid-year promotions when they meet the above credit requirements at the end of the first semester of school.

\*\*Accelerated Options require less than 24 credits. More information about this option in the high school section pages 33 through 37.

Note: A student selecting an 18 credit, three year plan must have 15 credits by the end of the first semester of the third year to become a senior.

## Testing Requirements

The Florida Standards Assessments, which measure student success with the Florida Standards, include assessments in English language arts (grades 3-11), mathematics (grades 3-8), and end-of-course assessments for Algebra 1 and Geometry. -- The End-of-Course Assessments are computer-based tests designed to measure student achievement of the specified standards for middle- and high-school level courses in science (Biology 1), social studies (Civics and U.S. History), and mathematics (Algebra 1 and Geometry).

- The statewide science assessment measures student success with the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and includes assessments in grades 5 and 8.

All students must participate in the statewide assessments for the course(s) in which he/she is enrolled. For more information on state assessments and the Credit Acceleration Program (CAP) go to <http://www.fldoe.org/accountability/assessments/k-12-student-assessment>, or for high school graduation testing requirements go to <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements>.



# Reporting of Academic Progress

- Progress reports are issued at the mid-point of each grading period.
  - Report Cards are distributed at the end of each grading period.
  - Kindergarten students will receive a grade of E, S, N, or U in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, social studies, music, and physical education.
  - Students in grades one and two will receive grades A-F in English Language Arts and mathematics. They will receive grades of E, S, N, or U in science, social studies, and S, N or U in music and P.E.
  - Students in grades three through five will receive grades A-F in English Language Arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. They will receive grades of S, N, or U in music and physical education.
  - Students in grades six through twelve will receive grades A-F in all subjects.
- All students will receive grades of S, N, or U in conduct.

A = 90 – 100%	A = Excellent Progress	E = Excellent
B = 80 – 89%	B = Above Average Progress	S = Satisfactory
C = 70 - 79%	C = Satisfactory Progress	
D = 60 – 69%	D = Lowest Acceptable Progress	N = Needs Improvement
F = 0 - 59%	F = Unsatisfactory Progress	U = Unsatisfactory
I = 0%	I = Incomplete	
	NA = Not Applicable this period	

<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p><b>ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE:</b></p> <p><b>PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST</b></p>	<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p><b>To prepare all students to be college and career ready and function as productive citizens.</b></p>	<p><b>CORE VALUES</b></p> <p><b><u>P</u>ERSERVERANCE</b>  <b><u>R</u>ESPECT</b>  <b><u>I</u>NTEGRITY</b>  <b><u>D</u>EPENDABILITY</b>  <b><u>E</u>THICS</b></p>
---	---	---

# Elementary Report Card

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instructional Levels for Reading and Math classes</li> <li>2. Classroom Conduct in their academic classes (S,N,U)</li> <li>3. Conduct for "Specials" such as music and PE (S,N,U)</li> <li>4. Grading period-we have four nine weeks grading periods</li> <li>5. Indicates your child's level of study skills</li> <li>6. Class subjects</li> <li>7. Grade earned in the subject that grading period (achievement grades for academic subjects and effort grades for Specials)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Final Class Grade for the year</li> <li>9. Teacher and Parent Comments</li> <li>10. Please sign and date the report card here and list a phone number</li> <li>11. Reading Level of your student</li> <li>12. Shows your child's placement for next year</li> <li>13. If marked this indicates danger of failing</li> <li>14. Conference Record</li> <li>15. Attendance information for each grading period</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;">See sample report card on page 13</p>
---	---



## SCHOOL BOARD OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY – REPORT CARD

000000003

STUDENT NAME	SCHOOL	TEACHER	GRADE	DATE	MARKING PD	PLACEMENT FOR NEXT YEAR
BRAHMAN, JILL	OKEECHOBEE ELEMENTARY	Williamson	04	06-03-16	04	P = Promoted in Next Grade R = Retained in Grade A = Administrative Placement for Good Cause to Next Grade <span style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</span>

COURSE NUMBER	SUBJECT	MARKING PERIOD				FIN GR	CONDUCT				EXPLANATION OF MARKS	ATTENDANCE			
		1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4		REPORT PERIOD	1	2	3
5010045	English Language Arts LEVEL	B	A	A	A	A					<b>EFFORT GRADE</b> The effort grade indicates how well a student listens, works in groups, follows directions, completes work and participates. E = Excellent S = Satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory * = Curriculum Suspended	<b>ATTENDANCE</b> The attendance information shows the number of days present, absent, and tardy for each report period.			
5010090	WRITING E	4	4	4	4	B				DAYS PRESENT 39 43 40 45 DAYS ABSENT 4 7 2 DAYS TARDY 1		<b>ACHIEVEMENT GRADE</b> The achievement grade indicates the student's progress at the level at which he/she is presently working. <b>For Grades One - Five</b> A = 90 - 100 = Outstanding Progress B = 80 - 89 = Above Average Progress C = 70 - 79 = Average Progress D = 60 - 69 = Lowest Acceptable Progress F = 0 - 59 = Failure I = Incomplete			
5012000	MATH E LEVEL	B	B	C	A	B									
5013000	MUSIC GEN E	4	4	4	4	E	E	E	E						
5015010	PHYS ED E	S	S	E	E	S	S	S	E	E					
5020000	SCIENCE E	B	B	A	A	A									
5021000	SOCIAL STUDIES	B	*	*	*	A									
	CLASSROOM CONDUCT						S	S	S	S					

**INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL FOLLOWS GRADE**  
 The instructional level indicates the grade level at which the student is receiving instruction in Mathematics and Reading.

PP = First Grade      3 = Third Grade  
 P = First Grade      4 = Fourth Grade  
 1 = First Grade      5 = Fifth Grade  
 2 = Second Grade

**Student is reading:**

- o Enrichment Reading
- o On Grade Level
- o Below Grade Level

**At the present rate of progress, your child's promotion to the next grade may be in danger due to:**

- o Grades \_\_\_\_\_
- o Other \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher requests conference with Parent

Date Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Held \_\_\_\_\_  
 Retention Discussed \_\_\_\_\_

An (X) indicates the level of work study skills.

( ) The student does the work that is assigned, is seldom late in completing work, and gives excellent attention to classroom tasks.  
 (X) The student usually does the work that is assigned, usually completes work on time, and gives attention to classroom tasks.  
 ( ) The student sometimes does the work that is assigned, seldom completes work on time, and gives little attention to classroom

Teacher comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGN AND RETURN TOP SHEET**

1. Instructional Levels for Reading and Math classes
2. Classroom Conduct in their academic classes (E, S, N, U)
3. Conduct for "Specials" such as music and PE (E, S, N, U)
4. Grading period - we have four nine weeks grading periods
5. Indicates your child's level of study skills
6. Class subjects
7. Grade earned in the subject that grading period (Achievement grades for academic subjects and Effort grades for Specials)
8. Final Class Grade for the year
9. Teacher and Parent Comments
10. Please sign and date the report card here and list a phone number
11. Reading Level of your student
12. Shows your child's placement for next year
13. If marked this indicates danger of failing
14. Conference Record
15. Attendance information for each grading period

## Middle School Report Card

1. Student Name and Official Record – let the school know if this is incorrect
2. Student's Grade Level and School Counselor
3. School Term 1 = 1<sup>st</sup> semester class      2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> semester class      3 = year-long class
4. Period – Time the class meets during the day
5. Grade Placement for Next Year
6. Daily Attendance - This shows the number of absences and tardies for the last grading period.
7. Total Credits - Total Credits earned toward graduation. Middle school students may earn a graduation credit if they earn a passing grade in Algebra 1 or Geometry.
8. Student Number
9. Grading Period Data - 4 nine week periods      Grd-grade earned in the class
10. Grade Point Averages – Grading Period GPA-total quality points for each grade earned, divided by the number of classes
11. Cumulative GPA - Total quality points for all classes with earned credit (Alg 1 for MS) divided by total classes (1)

*See sample Middle School Report Card on page 15*



**Skyward Family and Student Access, see page 29 for more information.**

## Learning the basics of Internet safety

- Children use a variety of online services, and each of these services can have different safety concerns.
- However, there are some basic tips which you can employ no matter how your children use the Internet.

- Keep the computer in a high-traffic area of your home.
- Establish limits for which online sites children may visit and for how long.
- Remember that Internet technology can be mobile, and make sure to monitor cell phones, gaming devices, and laptops.
- Surf the Internet with your children and let them show you what they like to do online.
- Know who is connecting with your children online and set rules for social networking, instant messaging, e-mailing, online gaming, and using webcams.
- Continually dialogue with your children about online safety.

### Start a discussion with your child

- What are your favorite things to do online?
  - What is personal information? Why should you keep it private?
  - What could you do to be safer online?
  - What would you do if anyone online asked to meet you face-to-face?
  - Besides me, who do you feel that you can talk to if you are in a scary or uncomfortable situation
- Great resource for both parents and students  
[www.netsmartz.org](http://www.netsmartz.org)

# Internet Safety

SCHOOL BOARD OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY  
**SECONDARY PROGRESS REPORT**  
 OKEECHOBEE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Student Name: John Brahman  
 Address: 2800 Highway 441 North  
 City, ST, Zip: Okeechobee, FL, 34972

Student Number: 000000002

School Year: 16 - 17

Grade: 08 CARPENTER

Homeroom: 242

Trm	Pd	Course Number	Course Title	Instructor	1st			2nd			Semester		3rd			4th			Credit Earned	Conduct	Conf. Req	
					Grd	Abs	Tar	Grd	Abs	Tar	Exm	Grd	Grd	Abs	Tar	Grd	Abs	Tar				Exm
					DAILY ATTENDANCE																	
3	01	1001080	MJ LangArts	Kinty	A			A					C			C				B		S
3	02	1200310	Alg I	Root	A			B					B			B			B		1.00	S
3	03	2100010	MJ Hist	Box	A			A					A			A			A			S
1	05	0600040	Wheel 5	Hardy	A			A					B			A			A			S
2	05	8000240	Wheel 5	Mills	A			A					B			A			A			S
3	06	2002100	MJ Sci	Alice	A			B					A						A			S
3	07	2305000	MJ C Ed	King											B							

STUDENTS EARNING LESS THAN A 2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE ARE AT RISK OF NOT GRADUATING.

GRADE LEGEND

90 - 100	A	OUTSTANDING
80 - 89	B	ABOVE AVERAGE PROGRESS
70 - 79	C	AVERAGE PROGRESS
60 - 69	D	LOWEST ACCEPTABLE PROGRESS
0 - 59	F	FAILURE
	I	INCOMPLETE

Grade Point Averages

1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks	4.0000
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks	3.6667
Semester	0.0000
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks	3.1667
4 <sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks	3.3333
Semester	0.0000
Graduation GPA	
Cumulative GPA	3.0000
Total Credits	1.00
Bright Futures GPA	
Grade Placement Next Year	09

- Middle School Report Card**
1. Student Name and official address – let the school know if this is incorrect
  2. Student's Grade Level and School Counselor
  3. School Term 1 = 1<sup>st</sup> semester class 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> semester class 3 = year-long class
  4. Period – time when the class meets during the day
  5. Grade Placement for Next Year
  6. Daily Attendance  
This shows the number of absences and tardies for the last grading period
  7. Total Credits – total credits earned toward graduation  
Middle school students may earn a graduation credit if they earn a passing grade in Algebra I, Algebra 1a, or Honors Algebra I.

8. Student Number
9. Grading Period Data – 4 nine weeks periods  
Grd – grade earned in the class
10. Grade Point Averages  
Grading Period GPA – total quality points for each grade earned, divided by the number of classes
11. Cumulative GPA – Total quality points for all classes with earned credit (Alg I for MS) divided by total classes (1)

## High School Report Card

1. **Student Name and Official Address** – let the school know if this is incorrect
2. **Student's Grade Level and School Counselor**
3. **School Term**    1 = 1<sup>st</sup> semester class                      2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> semester class    3 = year-long class
4. **Period** – Time the class meets during the day
5. **Grade Placement for Next Year**
6. **Semester Data** – 2 semesters per year
  - Exm – grade on the semester exam
  - Grd\* – semester grade for that class - calculated using both nine weeks grades and the semester exam grade with each passing semester grade (D or better) earning .5 credit
7. **Total Credits** - total credits earned toward graduation
8. **Student Number**
9. **Grading Period Data** - 4 nine week periods
  - Grd - grade earned in the class
  - Abs - absences in that class
  - Tar - tardies to that class
10. **Grade Point Averages**
  - Grading Pd GPA –total quality points for each grade divided by the number of classes
  - Cumulative GPA - total quality points for all classes in with earned credit divided by total classes taken

**\*Neither a semester grade nor credit will be given in courses with a State Administered EOC until the results of the EOC have been received and calculated in to 1st and 2nd semesters' grades.**

*See the High School Report Card sample on Page 17*



**Skyward Family and Student Access, see page 29 for more information.**

# The Earlier, The Better

## Florida Prepaid College Plan

**2017-2018 OPEN ENROLLMENT  
MID-OCTOBER 2017 THROUGH FEBRUARY 2018.**

**The cost of college shouldn't be the reason your child or grandchild misses out on a great education. By saving early with the Florida Prepaid College Plans, you can help ensure that your child or grandchild will get that chance. It's the easiest and most affordable way to plan and save for a child's future - today.**

**For information visit our website: [Myfloridaprepaid.com](http://Myfloridaprepaid.com) or call**

**1 (800) 552-GRAD (4723)**

SCHOOL BOARD OF OKEECHOBEE COUNTY  
**SECONDARY PROGRESS REPORT**  
 OKEECHOBEE HIGH SCHOOL

Student Name: Joe Brahman  
 Address: 2800 Highway 441 North  
 City, ST, Zip: Okeechobee, FL, 34972

Student Number: 000000001

School Year: 16 - 17

Grade: 11 KOFF

Homeroom: 1412

Trm	Pd	Course Number	Course Title	Instructor	1st Nine Weeks			2nd Nine Weeks			Semester		3rd Nine Weeks			4th Nine Weeks			Credit Earned	Conduct	Conf. Request	
					Grd	Abs	Tar	Grd	Abs	Tar	Exm	Grd	Grd	Abs	Tar	Grd	Abs	Tar				Exm
3	01	1200330	Algebra II	Garcia	B	5		B	2		B	B	B	10	1	C	4	C	C	1.00	S	
3	02	1001370	Eng III	Burnett	A	5		B	1		C	B	C	11		B	5	F	C	1.00	S	
3	03	0708340	Spanish I	Anselmo	B	5		B	3		A	B	B	9		B	4	B	B	1.00	S	
3	04	8106230	An Sci 4	McWaters	B			B	2		B	B	C	11		B	2	B	B	1.00	S	
3	05	8106240	An Sci 5	McWaters	B			B	2		B	B	C	11		B	2	B	B	1.00	S	
3	06	2100310	Amer Hist	Hyde	A	3		A	4		A	A	A	6		A	7		A	1.00	S	
3	07	2002500	Mar Sci i	Kielbasa	B	4		A	3		A	A	B	11		B	6	B	B	1.00	S	

STUDENTS EARNING LESS THAN A 2.0 GRADE POINT AVERAGE ARE AT RISK OF NOT GRADUATING.

GRADE LEGEND

90 - 100	A	OUTSTANDING
80 - 89	B	ABOVE AVERAGE PROGRESS
70 - 79	C	AVERAGE PROGRESS
60 - 69	D	LOWEST ACCEPTABLE PROGRESS
0 - 59	F	FAILURE
	I	INCOMPLETE

SEMESTER GRADES FOR COURSES WITH STATE EOC'S WILL POST AFTER THE EOC GRADE HAS BEEN APPLIED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR.

Grade Point Averages

1 <sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks	3.2857
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nine Weeks	3.2857
Semester	3.2857
3 <sup>rd</sup> Nine Weeks	2.7143
4 <sup>th</sup> Nine Weeks	3.0000
Semester	2.8571
Graduation GPA	
Cumulative GPA	2.7500
Total Credits	20.00
Bright Futures GPA	
Grade Placement Next Year	12 <sup>th</sup>

High School Report Card

1. Student Name and official address - let the school know if this is incorrect
2. Student's Grade Level and School Counselor
3. School Term 1 = 1<sup>st</sup> semester class 2 = 2<sup>nd</sup> semester class 3 = year-long class
4. Period - time when the class meets during the day
5. Grade Placement for Next Year
6. Semester Data - 2 semesters per year  
 Exm - grade on the semester exam  
 Grd - semester grade for that class - calculated using both 9 weeks grades and the semester exam grade with each passing semester grade (D or better) earning .5 credit
7. Total Credits - total credits earned toward graduation

8. Student Number
9. Grading Period Data - 4 nine weeks periods  
 Grd - grade earned in the class  
 Abs - absences in that class  
 Tar - tardies to that class
10. Grade Point Averages  
 Grading Pd GPA - total quality points for each grade divided by the number of classes  
 Cumulative GPA - total quality points for all classes with earned credit, divided by total classes taken

# FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2017-2018 SCHEDULE

## Florida Standards Assessments (FSA)

### FSA English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics

Dates	Assessment
March 1–9, 2018	Grades 8–10 ELA Writing
March 5–9, 2018	Grades 4–7 ELA Writing
April 9–13, 2018	Grade 3 ELA Reading
April 16–May 11, 2018	Grades 4–10 ELA Reading Grades 3–8 Mathematics

### FSA End-of-Course Assessments

Dates	Assessment
September 11–22, 2017 November 27–December 15, 2017 April 16–May 11, 2018 July 9–20, 2018	Algebra 1 and Geometry

### FSA Retakes

Dates	Assessment
September 11–22, 2017 February 26–March 2, 2018	Grade 10 ELA Writing Retake
September 11–29, 2017	Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake
March 19–April 6, 2018	Grade 10 ELA Reading Retake Algebra 1 Retake

## Next Generation Sunshine State Standards (NGSSS) Assessments

### Reading Retake and Statewide Science

Dates	Assessment
September 18–29, 2017 March 19–April 6, 2018	FCAT 2.0 Reading Retake
April 30–May 4, 2018	Grades 5 & 8 Science

### End-of-Course Assessments

Dates	Assessment
September 18–29, 2017 November 27–December 15, 2017 April 16–May 11, 2018 July 9–20, 2018	Biology 1, Civics, U.S. History



## FLORIDA STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2017-2018 SCHEDULE

### Other Statewide Assessments

Dates	Assessment
August 10-September 21, 2017	<u>Florida Kindergarten Readiness Screening (FLKRS)</u>  (Administered within the first 30 instructional days of the school year)
October 11, 2017	<u>Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test</u>  ( <u>PSAT/NMSQT</u> )
January 29–March 23, 2018	ACCESS for ELLs  Alternate ACCESS for ELLs
February 26–April 13, 2018	<b>Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) – Performance Task</b> Grades 3–8 ELA & Mathematics Grades 4–8 Writing Grades 5 & 8 NGSSS Science End-of-Course Assessment (Civics)
March 12–April 27, 2018	<b>Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) – Performance Task</b> Grades 9 & 10 ELA Grades 9 & 10 Writing End-of-Course Assessments (Algebra 1, Biology 1, Geometry, U.S. History)
Data Collection Periods: September–October 2017 November–December 2017 February–March 2018	<b>Florida Standards Alternate Assessment (FSAA) – Datafolio</b> Grades 3–10 ELA – Reading & Writing Grades 3– 8 Mathematics Grades 5 & 8 NGSSS Science End-of-Course Assessments (Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry, U.S. History)
May 2018	Advanced Placement (AP) Exams



## Tutorial Programs

Each elementary school has tutorial services for designated grades. These are designed to meet the individual needs of students. Call your school's counselor for information.

Tutorial services are available at Osceola Middle School and Yearling Middle School. Afternoon tutoring is provided at the Freshman Campus and Okeechobee High School. Tutoring can involve computer-assisted instruction as well as individual instruction.

The Freshman Campus and Okeechobee High School have academic after-school programs provided by the Migrant Education Program and Title III.

Academic Support Services personnel at the Dixon-Hendry Campus of Indian River State College provide tutoring for students in grades 9 - 12. High school students can come to the Academic Support Center, Room B-130, after high school hours for tutoring. For complete details and hours, please call IRSC (863) 824-6009.

## After-School Elementary Childcare Program

Childcare programs are offered at North and Central Elementary for students Pre K-5 grade. Students from Seminole can be shuttled to North and students from South and Everglades can be shuttled to Central to participate in the program. The Childcare Program offers an after-school snack, homework time, group craft or outdoor activities. Students must be picked up by 5:45 p.m. Enrollment packages are available in all elementary school offices. For more information on this program, call (863) 462-5000 Ext. 260.

## McKinney-Vento

The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless. If, due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings, or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, state educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth. If you are experiencing homelessness, please notify your child's school counselor or 462-5000 Ext. 266.



## Student Counseling and Academic Advisement

Counseling Service is provided at all school sites during the school day for the following purposes:

- Academic Counseling
- Scheduling of Courses
- Career Information
- Personal Situations

Parents can schedule conferences with teachers by calling the Counselor's Office at their child's school.



## Opportunities for Parent Participation

### **Serving on School Advisory Councils**

Parents are notified through the school newsletter regarding School Advisory Council meetings. All schools have an Advisory Council composed of a balanced number of parents, students, business/community representatives, school board employees, and the school's principal. The Advisory Council works toward achieving the School Improvement Plan goals which are based on the State Education Goals. Lottery funds are distributed to the schools for the Advisory Council to use toward fulfilling those goals. Call your child's school for more information.

### **Becoming a School Volunteer**

Volunteers are vital to any school's staff. Some serve in the following capacities: classroom volunteers, clerical assistants, community resources, computer assistants, media assistants, and business partners. All volunteers are required to complete an application form which includes references and preferences as to areas in which they wish to volunteer. If you would like to volunteer contact the District Coordinator at (863) 462-5000 Ext. 261. Contacts at school sites will be the Assistant Principals.

### **Parent/Teacher Meetings**

Contact your child's school to see

when the next Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting will be held.

### **Parents of ELL Students**

Parents/guardians of ELL students are encouraged to participate in our District Parent Leadership Council. For more information on our ELL program contact 462-5000, Ext. 260.

### **District Advisory Council**

Parents/guardians The District Advisory Council (DAC) meets quarterly at the School Board Office room 303 at 6:00 p.m. September 28, November 30, February 22 and April 26

## Services Available for Parents

It has been proven that when parents are actively involved in their children's education, children perform better in school. You are just as important as your child's teacher in helping your child receive a good education. You can make a big difference just by being a part of your child's everyday school experience. All schools have agenda books, websites and newsletters to provide communication to parents.

**"Mentoring Works!"** "The number one indicator of success for a child is a good relationship with a caring adult." More people fail in life for lack of encouragement than for any other reason. Mentors assist students with goal setting, educational planning, career planning, and by supporting student success.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters of Okeechobee County** provides reading mentors at North, Seminole and Everglades Elementary School. Children are matched with a "Big" and work to build a book-centered relationship focused on improving reading skills to K-3 graders. Referrals for this program must be made through the child's teacher. For more information on Big Brothers Big Sisters call (863) 824-2227.

**AmeriCorps St Lucie, Indian River & Okeechobee Reads** is a mentoring program that recruits members of the community and trains them in the art of reading tutoring. The tutors receive 100 hours of training and are then placed in Central or Seminole Elementary School. The selected schools refer K - 3 students who are below grade level in reading for intensive tutoring. AmeriCorps is a National and Community Service Program in which members commit to serving a minimum of 450 or 900 hours of service over an eleven month period. In return, they receive a modest living allowance and, upon successful completion of their

term of service, an educational award that can be applied to furthering their education or paying down student loans. For more information on AmeriCorps, call (772) 466-8535, Extension 212.

**Take Stock in Children** program provides four-year college tuition scholarships to at-risk, low-income students in Okeechobee County. The students are selected during the ninth grade. Individual mentors are assigned to scholarship recipients. Parents interested in application, mentoring, or other program information, should call Indian River State College Foundation. (772) 462-4786.

**Family Literacy Services:** Each elementary school has general meetings to address literacy. Individual grade meetings are also organized for different school sites.

**The Okeechobee County Public Library** also works with family literacy by providing academic and enrichment programs for children and families (863) 763-3536.

### **FAU-Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)**

FAU CARD is a community based program providing assistance and supports to children and adults with autism spectrum disorder and related disabilities, their families, the professionals serving them, and the community. FAU CARD was established by the Florida Legislature, and is funded by the Florida Department of Education to provide assistance with; early identification of autism, referrals to therapeutic interventions, trainings to decrease difficult behaviors and increase communication and social skills, transitioning to employment, and information about supplemental funding supports. Registered clients receive individualized attention to meet specific needs. All services are free. Contact your Okeechobee Clinical Specialist (772) 873.3422

## What can you do before your child starts school?

### FREE LITERACY APP FOR OKEECHOBEE RESIDENTS!



Okeechobee County Schools is providing Footsteps2Brilliance®, a comprehensive literacy app, to the parents of all pre-K - 2nd grade children who live in Okeechobee, FL. This engaging app will help you prepare your child for school.



If you are registered at an Okeechobee Public School, look for your Super Secret Code from your teacher. Children outside of Okeechobee Public Schools, register now at:

[www.myf2b.com/register/okee](http://www.myf2b.com/register/okee)



### Información de Aplicación Gratuita para los Residentes de Okeechobee!



Las Escuelas del Condado de Okeechobee estan ofreciendo una aplicacion integral de instruccion - Footsteps2Brilliance® -, a los padres de todos los ninos de pre-K - 2do grado, que viven en Okeechobee, FL. Esta atractiva aplicacion le ayudara a preparar a su hijo/a para la escuela.



Si está matriculado en una escuela Pública de Okeechobee, busque el Super Código Secreto de su Profesor. Los niños que que no están en las Escuelas Públicas de Okeechobee, se pueden registrar ahora en:

[www.myf2b.com/register/okee](http://www.myf2b.com/register/okee)



## Florida State Standards

Florida State Standards were developed to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, are prepared for success in education beyond high school and the workforce. The standards will help ensure that students are receiving a quality education and will provide an opportunity to share best practices and successes within and across state.

The standards were developed to help teachers ensure that their students have the skill and knowledge they need to be successful by providing clear goals for student learning.

Standards have been written for English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics. The grade specific standards define end-of-year expectations and a cumulative progression designed to enable students to meet college and career readiness expectation by the end of high school. As students advance through grades K-12, they are expected to meet each year's grade-specific standards and retain or further develop skills mastered in previous grades.

Although the Florida State Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade level, they do not define how a teacher should teach the standards. Teachers are expected to use a variety of appropriate materials and strategies to meet the educational needs of the children who have been assigned to them. The standards focus on what is most essential but do not describe all that should be or can be taught.

Student proficiency of mastery of the Florida State Standards will be measured by the FSA Assessment.

## Kindergarten

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in kindergarten—along with some important additional skills. Kindergarten students are learning these types of lessons:

- Asking and answering questions about key details in a text with prompting and support.
- Recognizing common types of texts (e.g., storybooks, poems).
- Actively engaging in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
  - Reading emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Demonstrating understanding of the organization and basic features of print.



### MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in kindergarten—along with some important additional skills. Kindergarten students are learning these types of lessons:

- Counting to 100 by ones and by tens.
- Understanding relationships between numbers and quantities; connect counting to cardinality.



- Representing addition and subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, sounds, acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions or equations.



- Fluently adding and subtracting within five.



Download the complete English Language Arts and Math Florida Standards for Kindergarten at

[www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)



# First Grade

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in first grade—along with some important additional skills. First grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Retelling stories, including key details that help demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- Explaining major differences between books that tell stories and those that give information.



- Demonstrating understanding of spoken words, syllables and sounds.
- Reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.

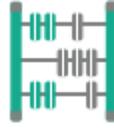


## MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in first grade—along with some important additional skills. First grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Solving word problems that call for addition of three whole numbers whose sum is less than or equal to 20 by using objects, drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.
- Understanding subtraction as an unknown-addend (an unknown number added to another) problem. For example: "Subtract  $10 - 8$  by finding the number that makes 10 when added to 8."

- Relating counting to addition and subtraction.



- Counting to 120, starting at any number less than 120. Read and write numbers that represent a number of objects.

# 120

Download the complete ELA and Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 1 at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)

# Second Grade

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in second grade—along with some important additional skills. Second grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Asking and answering such questions as who, what, when, where and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.



- Using information gained from illustrations and words in print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of characters, settings or plots being read.
- Knowing and applying grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.



# Second Grade

## (Cont.)

### MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in second grade—along with some important additional skills. Second grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining the unknown whole number in an equation relating four or more whole numbers. For example, determining the unknown number that makes the equation true in the following:

1.  $37+10+10 = \underline{\quad} +18$

2.  $?-6=12-4$

3.  $15-9+6=X$

- Using addition to find the total number of objects arranged in rectangular arrays with up to five rows and up to five columns; write an equation to express the total as a sum of equal addends.
- Counting within 1,000; skip-count by 5s, 10s and 100s.
- Reading and writing numbers to 1,000 using base-ten numerals (a number system based on 10 also known as the decimal system), number names and expanded form.
- Adding up to four two-digit numbers by using strategies based on place value and properties of operations.

Download the complete ELA and Mathematics Florida Standards for Grade 2 at [www.flstandards.org](http://www.flstandards.org)



# Third Grade

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in third grade—along with some important additional skills. Third grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Asking and answering questions to demonstrate understanding of text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.



- Distinguishing their own point of view from that of the narrator and characters.
- Explaining how the text's illustrations contribute to the words in a story.
- Reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Writing opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.

### MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in third grade—along with some important additional skills. Third grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Interpreting product of whole numbers, e.g., interpret  $5 \times 7$  as the total number of objects in five groups of seven objects each. Describe a context in which a total number of objects can be expressed as  $5 \times 7$ .



- Using multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays and measurement quantities, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.



- Understanding division as an unknown-factor problem. For example, find  $32 \div 8$  by finding the number that makes 32 when multiplied by eight.

- Solving two-step word problems using the four operations. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding.

## Fourth Grade

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in fourth grade—along with some important additional skills. Fourth grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining the theme of a story, drama or poem based on details in the text, and summarizing the text.



- Conducting a short research project that builds knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- Explaining how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.
- Writing narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details and clear event sequences.

### MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in Fourth grade—along with some important additional skills. Fourth grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Determining whether an equation is true or false by using comparative relational thinking. For example, without adding 60 and 24, determine whether the equation  $60 + 24 = 57 + 27$  is true or false.



- Fluently adding and subtracting multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm.
- Applying and extending previous understanding of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number.
- Using decimal notation for fractions with denominators of 10 or 100. For example, rewrite 0.62 as  $62/100$ ; describe a length as 0.62 meters; locate 0.62 on a number line diagram.
- Applying the area and perimeter formulas for rectangles in real world and mathematical problems. For example, find the width of a rectangular room, given the area of the flooring and the length, by viewing the area formula as a multiplication equation with an unknown factor.

## Fifth Grade

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in Fifth grade—along with some important additional skills. Fifth grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings or events in a story, drawing on specific details in the text.
- Analyzing how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning, tone or beauty of a text.
- Producing clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose and audience.
- Engaging in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on fifth grade topics and text.



# Fifth Grade

(cont.)

## MATHEMATICS

Florida students will continue to practice many of the same things you learned in Fifth grade—along with some important additional skills. Fifth grade students are learning these types of lessons:

- Using parentheses, brackets or braces in numerical expressions, and evaluating expressions with the following symbols.

$$(3+a)-5=2$$

- Recognizing that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left.

- Using place value, understanding to round decimals to any place.

26.49

- Measuring volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic centimeter, cubic feet and improvised units.



**Students in grade K-8 are eligible to waive the physical education requirement if they meet any of the following criteria:**

- The student is enrolled or required to enroll in a remedial course.
- The student's parent indicates in writing to the school that:
  1. The parent requests that the student enroll in another course from among those courses offered as options by the school district; or
  2. The student is participating in physical activities outside the school day which are equal to or in excess of the mandated requirement

A waiver is valid only for the current school year.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

To be promoted from middle school a student must successfully complete:

- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in English (1 successfully completed course in reading may be substituted for an English course that the student has taken but not passed);
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Mathematics;
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Science;
- 3 middle school or higher, year-long courses in Social Studies (beginning with those students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade in 2012-13, those students must have a semester-long or year-long course in Civics)
- A Career and Education Planning Course that may be taught in 6th, 7th, or 8th grade and must result in a completed personalized academic and career plan for the students and emphasize technology or the application of technology in career fields.

A student who scores at level 1 on the ELA portion of the FSA will be offered an intensive reading course. Level 2 readers will receive an intensive reading course or a course in which reading strategies are delivered. Middle school students scoring at level 1 or 2 on FSA Mathematics will be offered remediation the following year. All students in the Okeechobee County middle schools are enrolled in a reading course.

In addition students will be able to take classes in music, physical education, agriculture, and technology. These courses are semester-length courses.

Any deviation from the course of study for middle school students must be approved by the Principal.

### **Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) Options**

ACCEL options are educational options that provide academically challenging curriculum or accelerated instruction to eligible students in kindergarten through grade 12. Options available to students may vary by school and by level (elementary, middle school, high school) and include whole-grade and mid-year promotion, subject-matter acceleration, virtual instruction in higher grade-level subjects, Credit Acceleration Program. Additional options that may be available at a school are enriched science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) coursework; enrichment programs; flexible grouping; advanced academic courses; combined classes; self-paced instruction; curriculum compacting; advanced –content instruction; and telescoping curriculum. Please contact your child’s school to learn more about ACCEL options.



## The student information system for Okeechobee County Schools is Skyward.



Family and Student Access

Part of this system is a Family Access portal. Through this portal, parents are able to check their student(s) grades, assignments, attendance, and other student information.

In order to receive your login and password information, you must go to the school that your child attends and present an ID. If you have children in more than one school, you need only go to one of the schools. The login and password can not be mailed or given over the phone. Only guardians listed within our system will be able to receive this information. The link to access the Family Access portal can be found on our county webpage.

<http://www.okee.k12.fl.us>. Please just look for "Skyward Family Access" under QUICK LINKS on the main page.

### District Support Websites

**Footsteps 2 Brilliance** <https://myf2b.com/>

**i-Ready Website** <https://cainc.i-ready.com/> (Elementary & Middle—Reading & Math instruction)

**Reflex Math** <https://www.reflexmath.com/> (Elementary—Math fluency)

**AR** <https://hosted84.renlearn.com/73214/default.aspx> (Elementary—Reading)

**Portal** <https://www.portal.okee.k12.fl.us> (All students—Links and Document Access)

### Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

**AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.**

#### AVID school sites:

**Everglades Elementary**

**North Elementary**

**Seminole Elementary**

**Yearling Middle School**

**Osceola Middle School**

**Okeechobee Freshman Campus**

**Okeechobee High School**

# Federal Programs



## Title I, Part A

### Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged

- Five elementary schools, Yearling Middle School, Osceola Middle School and Okeechobee Achievement Academy are school wide projects.
- Provides supplemental materials and personnel at Title I schools including Reading Coach positions and paraprofessionals to support effective instruction and student learning.

## Title I, Part C

### Education of Migratory Children

- Serves approximately 650 children at all ten school sites
- Migrant Advocates services are available at all schools for all Migrant students and families
- Before/after-school tutorial available at secondary schools (Middle and High School)
- Middle School STEM programs to focus on the areas of Math and Science
- Migrant Summer Camp opportunities: Reading & Math for grades K-8, Middle School STEM, PASS Credit Retrieval for high school Migrant students, Migrant Theater Camp for grades 3-12
- English classes are available for Migrant parents. For more information, call 863-462-5000 Ext. 266

## Title I, Part D

### Delinquent & At-Risk Youth Programs

- Provides supplemental services for students in three Juvenile Justice facilities in Okeechobee County and paraprofessional to support student learning at Okeechobee Achievement Academy.

## Title III

### Supplemental Instructional Support for English Language Learners

- Program designed to help ensure that children who are limited English proficient attain English proficiency, develop high levels of academic achievement and meet the same challenging state academic content and achievement standards as all children.
- For more information, contact the Office of Student Services at 462-5000 Ext. 260.

## Title VI

### Rural & Low Income Schools

- Title VI, Part B, Subpart 2, Rural and Low-Income School Program is intended to meet the unique needs of rural and low-income districts by providing resources to supplement educational NCLB priorities.
- This grant funds the new Graduation Coach at Okeechobee High School and the Credit Retrieval Paraprofessional who both support student success strategies with the common goal of assisting students to reach the ultimate goal of graduation.

## Title I, Part A School Improvement Grant (SIG), 1003(a)

- This for use in Florida's persistently lowest-performing schools that demonstrate the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of their students so as to enable the schools to make adequate yearly progress and exit improvement status.

## McKinney-Vento

The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless.

Through the **Migrant Program**, families are provided a number of exciting educational tools such as Brainchild, Leapfrog/LeapPad, and computers with printers for secondary students to practice FSA skills and complete homework assignments. The migrant program also provides assistance to Migrant families in identifying resources and services related to education, health, and nutritional programs within the district. For more information, contact the Office of Grants & Special Programs at (863) 462-5000 ext. 266



## HIGH SCHOOL

High School includes grades 9 – 12 and is designed to prepare students to meet the challenges of adulthood by developing their academic, leadership, and citizenship skills. At the high school level, students start making choices about the design of their academic programs. They are able to customize their course of study with a career in mind, or may choose to take a variety of electives in order to help them make a decision about their future career path. For those students who choose to attend college after graduation, the increased rigor of the academic classes will help to prepare them for a less restrictive more self-directed study environment.

- **Okeechobee High School/Freshman Campus** serves only ninth graders. OFC's main building is the result of a historical renovation of the original Okeechobee High School building.
- **Okeechobee High School**, home of the Brahmans, serves tenth through twelfth graders.
- **Okeechobee Achievement Academy** serves students in need of additional support.

### Instructional Levels

At each secondary grade level from 8<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, there are established optional instructional program levels within the subject areas. These instructional levels are identified in the Florida Course Code Directory. Students are assigned to the levels based on individual evaluation of the student's academic achievement level. If the student is performing below grade level they will be assigned to a remedial class. If they are prepared to experience a more rigorous academic opportunity they may be scheduled into an honors curriculum.

At the high school level, if your child's *cumulative grade point average* falls below 2.5 on a 4.0 scale you will be notified that your child is at risk of not meeting the graduation standards and a conference will be suggested.

Students who score at Level 1 on the ELA portion of the FSA will be offered an intensive reading course the following year. Level 2 readers will be offered an intensive reading course or a content area course in which reading strategies are delivered. High school students scoring at Level 1 or Level 2 on FSA Mathematics will be offered remediation the following year.



### Exit Interview of Students

Florida statute requires the student's counselor or other school personnel to conduct an exit interview with the student to determine the reasons for the student's decision to drop out of school and what actions could be taken to keep the student in school. The student must be informed of the opportunities to continue his or her education in a different environment, including, but not limited to, adult education and GED test preparation. Additionally, the student must complete a survey in the format prescribed by the DOE to provide data on student reasons for terminating enrollment and actions taken by schools to keep students enrolled.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (including Athletics and Band)**

Students who want to participate in an extra-curricular program must practice good self-control and good citizenship. In order to maintain eligibility a student must earn a 2.0 cumulative GPA and receive not more than 2 failing grades each grading period

### **POST-HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.**

It is the goal of the Okeechobee County School System that each graduate is prepared to enter some post-secondary institution or the workforce upon graduation. This may include any university, community college, vocational institution, technical institution, internship program, the military, or a job-training program. In order to enter a college a student must submit ACT or SAT scores that meet minimum requirements. In order to take advantage of these experiences the student may be required or advised to take one or more of the following standardized tests:

**American College Testing Program (ACT)** – This test is used for college admission and is designed to measure classroom achievement in four areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

**Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB)** - Is a test which identifies a student's skills and competencies in preparing for the workforce.

**Postsecondary College Readiness Test (PERT)** - 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders - A test administered to assess their basic computation and communication skills in preparation for their entry into a degree program at a state college or university. The test includes Reading, Writing, and basic Mathematics sections.

**Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)** – designed for sophomores or juniors (and designated freshman). It can be used as practice for the SAT, which the student will take the following year. In the 11<sup>th</sup> grade it is used to determine which students will participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)** – This test is used for college admission and is designed to measure general verbal and mathematical abilities.

# GRADUATION



### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.**

In order to graduate a student must meet the following conditions:

1. Earn a cumulative 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
2. Earn a passing score on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade FSA Reading and FSA Math or an acceptable concordant score on ACT, SAT or PERT.
3. Earn credits in the courses required by one of the graduation plans listed below that has been selected by the student.

Standard High School Diploma Plan (4 year plan) – 24 credits

Accelerated College Preparatory Diploma Plan (3 year plan) – 18 credits

Accelerated Career Preparatory Diploma Plan (3 year plan) – 18 credits

### **EARLY GRADUATION**

Students who complete a minimum of 24 credits, achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale and earn a passing score on the statewide assessments required for high school have an option to graduate in fewer than eight semesters (four years). A student who graduates from high school midyear may receive an initial Bright Futures Scholarship award during the spring term following the student's graduation, as long as the student applies for the scholarship award no later than August 31 of the student's graduation year.



### Regular school day - start and end times

	Start Time	End Time
Okeechobee High School	7:05 a.m.	2:10 p.m.
Freshman Campus	7:18 a.m.	1:47 p.m.
Okeechobee Achievement Academy (middle/high)	7:20 a.m.	1:50 p.m.
Pre-K (located at OAA)	8:15 a.m.	2:30 p.m.
Middle Schools (Osceola & Yearling)	9:00 a.m.	3:40 p.m.
Central, Everglades & Seminole Elementary	8:00 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
North, South Elementary & OAA elementary	8:10 a.m.	2:50 p.m.

### Early Release Dates for 2017-2018 school year

Wednesday, September 13	Wednesday, February 14
Friday, November 17	Friday, April 27
Friday, December 22	Friday, May 25 (graduation)

### Early Release Day - start and end times

	Start Time	End Time
Okeechobee High School	7:05 a.m.	10:50 a.m.
Freshman Campus	7:18 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Okeechobee Achievement Academy (middle/high)	7:20 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Pre-K (located at OAA)	8:15 a.m.	11:10 a.m.
Middle Schools (Osceola & Yearling)	9:00 a.m.	12:20 p.m.
Central, Everglades & Seminole Elementary	8:00 a.m.	11:55 a.m.
North, South Elementary & OAA elementary	8:10 a.m.	11:30 a.m.



## Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2014-2015 School Year What Students and Parents Need to Know

### What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

### What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the EOC assessments and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Biology I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Algebra II (if enrolled)

### What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II



### What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

<b>4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ELA I, II III, IV</li> <li>▪ ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement</li> </ul>
<b>4 Credits Mathematics</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry</li> <li>▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry)</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Science</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must have a laboratory component</li> <li>▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> <li>▪ An identified rigorous Computer Science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Social Studies</b>
1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History .5 credit in U.S. Government .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy
<b>1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts*</b>
<b>1 Credit Physical Education*</b>
To include the integration of health
*Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp">http://www.fldoe.org/articulation/CCD/default.asp</a> .
<b>8 Elective Credits</b>
<b>1 Online Course</b>
Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

### Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.



## Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2015-2016 School Year Academic Advisement Flyer–What Students and Parents Need to Know

### What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

### What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the EOC assessments and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Algebra I\*
- U.S. History
- Biology I
- Algebra II (if enrolled)\*
- Geometry\*

\*Special Note: Thirty percent not applicable if enrolled in the 2014-2015 school year.

### What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Biology I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- U.S. History

### What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I and U.S. History).

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least .5 credit via paid employment.

### What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

<b>4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ELA I, II, III, IV</li> <li>▪ ELA honors, Advanced Placement (AP), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), International Baccalaureate (IB) and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement</li> </ul>
<b>4 Credits Mathematics</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry</li> <li>▪ Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry)</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Science</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One of which must be Biology I, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses.</li> <li>▪ Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component.</li> <li>▪ An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> <li>▪ An identified rigorous computer science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I)</li> </ul>
<b>3 Credits Social Studies</b>
1 credit in World History 1 credit in U.S. History .5 credit in U.S. Government .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy
<b>1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts<sup>†</sup></b>
<b>1 Credit Physical Education<sup>†</sup></b>
To include the integration of health
<sup>†</sup> Special Note: Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd">http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd</a> .
<b>8 Elective Credits</b>
<b>1 Online Course</b>
Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

# Students Entering Grade Nine in the 2017-18 School Year

## Academic Advisement Flyer-What Students and Parents Need to Know

### What are the diploma options?

Students must successfully complete one of the following diploma options:

- 24-credit standard diploma
- 18-credit Academically Challenging Curriculum to Enhance Learning (ACCEL) option
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) curriculum
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma curriculum

### What are the state assessment requirements?

Students must pass the following statewide assessments:

- Grade 10 ELA (or ACT/SAT concordant score)
- Algebra I end-of-course (EOC) and the results constitute thirty percent of the final course grade\* or a comparative score on the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Students must participate in the EOC assessments, and the results constitute 30 percent of the final course grade\*. These assessments are in the following subjects:

- Biology I
- U.S. History
- Geometry
- Algebra II (if enrolled)

\*Special Note: Thirty percent not applicable if not enrolled in the course but passed the EOC.

### What is the credit acceleration program (CAP)?

This program allows a student to earn high school credit if the student passes an advanced placement (AP) examination, a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or a statewide course assessment without enrollment in the course. The courses include the following subjects:

- Algebra I
- Biology I
- Geometry
- Algebra II
- U.S. History

### What are the graduation requirements for students with disabilities?

Two options are available only to students with disabilities. Both require the 24 credits listed in the table and both allow students to substitute a career and technical (CTE) course with related content for one credit in ELA IV, mathematics, science and social studies (excluding Algebra I, Geometry, Biology I and U.S. History).

- Students with significant cognitive disabilities may earn credits via access courses and be assessed via an alternate assessment.
- Students who choose the academic and employment option must earn at least .5 credit via paid employment.

### What are the requirements for the 24-credit standard diploma option?

#### 4 Credits English Language Arts (ELA)

- ELA I, II, III, IV
- ELA honors, AP, AICE, IB and dual enrollment courses may satisfy this requirement.

#### 4 Credits Mathematics

- One of which must be Algebra I and one of which must be Geometry.
- Industry certifications that lead to college credit may substitute for up to two mathematics credits (except for Algebra I and Geometry).

#### 3 Credits Science

- One of which must be Biology I, two of which must be equally rigorous science courses.
- Two of the three required credits must have a laboratory component.
- An industry certification that leads to college credit substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I).
- An identified rigorous computer science course with a related industry certification substitutes for up to one science credit (except for Biology I).

#### 3 Credits Social Studies

- 1 credit in World History
- 1 credit in U.S. History
- .5 credit in U.S. Government
- .5 credit in Economics with Financial Literacy

#### 1 Credit Fine and Performing Arts, Speech and Debate, or Practical Arts<sup>†</sup>

#### 1 Credit Physical Education<sup>†</sup>

To include the integration of health

<sup>†</sup> Special Note: Eligible courses and eligible course substitutions are specified in the Florida Course Code Directory at <http://www.fldoe.org/policy/articulation/ccd>.

#### 8 Elective Credits

#### 1 Online Course

Students must earn a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.



What are the requirements for standard diploma designations?

Scholar Diploma Designation
<p>In addition to meeting the 24-credit standard high school diploma requirements, a student must</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in Algebra II (must pass EOC);</li> <li>▪ Pass the Geometry EOC;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in statistics or an equally rigorous mathematics course;</li> <li>▪ Pass the Biology I EOC;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in chemistry or physics;</li> <li>▪ Earn 1 credit in a course equally rigorous to chemistry or physics;</li> <li>▪ Pass the U.S. History EOC;</li> <li>▪ Earn 2 credits in the same world language; and</li> <li>▪ Earn at least 1 credit in AP, IB, AICE or a dual enrollment course.</li> </ul> <p>A student is exempt from the Biology I or U.S. History assessment if the student is enrolled in an AP, IB or AICE Biology I or U.S. History course and the student</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Takes the respective AP, IB or AICE assessment; and</li> <li>▪ Earns the minimum score to earn college credit.</li> </ul>
Merit Diploma Designation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Meet the standard high school diploma requirements</li> <li>▪ Attain one or more industry certifications from the list established (per section 1003.492, Statutes [F.S.]).</li> </ul>

Can a student who selects the 24-credit program graduate early?

Yes, a student who completes all the 24-credit program requirements for a standard diploma may graduate in fewer than eight semesters.

What is the distinction between the 18-credit ACCEL option and the 24-credit option?

- 3 elective credits instead of 8
- Physical Education is not required
- Online course is not required

All other graduation requirements for a 24-credit standard diploma must be met (per s. 1003.4282(3)(a)-(e), F.S.).

Where is information on Bright Futures Scholarships located?

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program rewards students for their academic achievements during high school by providing funding to attend a postsecondary institution in Florida. For more information, visit <http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/SSFAD/bf/>.

## Accelerated Programs

Florida provides many ways for students to earn college credit for material learned in high school, such as advanced placement (AP) courses, dual enrollment (DE) courses, and Florida Virtual High School courses.

### Advanced Placement

The College Board’s AP program is a nationwide program in which students earning a “qualifying grade” on an AP exam can earn college credit. Course standards, teacher qualification, and examinations are controlled by The College Board, a national academic organization. AP courses at the high school may include: AP American Government, AP Drawing, AP Language Composition, AP Psychology, AP Calculus, AP Economics, AP Literature, AP U.S. History, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Music Theory, AP Spanish and AP World History

### Dual Enrollment

The school district has a Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement with Indian River State College to provide the opportunity for eligible students to enroll in postsecondary courses for which the students earn credit towards high school graduation and credit toward a college degree or vocational certificate. Participating students are exempt from the payment of registration, matriculation, and laboratory fees.

- For initial eligibility, students must have a 3.0 unweighted high school GPA to enroll in college-credit dual enrollment courses unless exempt courses are specifically outlined in the agreement.
- Students must demonstrate readiness through a minimum score on a college placement test.
- To continue participation in dual enrollment, students must maintain a 3.0 unweighted high school GPA and the minimum postsecondary GPA established by the postsecondary institution for college-credit courses.
- Regardless of meeting student eligibility requirements for continued enrollment, a student may lose the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment if the student is disruptive to the learning process.
- For seniors, the collegiate High School option is available, allowing 12th grade students to earn up to 30 college credits in their senior year. Please contact the high school guidance counselor for specific information.

For more information concerning dual enrollment, contact the School Counselor’s Department at Okeechobee High School.

## **Accelerated Programs—continued**

1. Early admission allows a pupil to enter college following completion of grade eleven, substituting two semesters of college for the senior year of high school. Home Education students may participate in early admission.
2. Program participants must meet the requirements that follow:
  - (a) School Board approval is required.
  - (b) College or university admission is required.
  - (c) Participants must carry full loads and earn grade point averages of "C" or its equivalent.
  - (d) College credit sufficient to fulfill graduation requirements must be earned prior to graduation.

An early admission student is not included in high school rank computations or consideration for Cum laude recognition or other honors or memberships in school organizations.

- **Florida Virtual School**

Florida Virtual School courses shall be available to students during the school day and through summer session. Students intending to enroll in a FLVS course must have approval from the principal or designee and their parents. [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)

## *Career Education*

All secondary schools offer multiple career and technical education programs designed to provide a link between academic performance and the workplace. The goal of Career Education is to provide students with real-world, hands-on instruction that gives meaning and incentive to learn the material presented in academic classes.

For School-to-Career planning, Florida CHOICES opens a world of opportunities for youth by providing excellent information about occupations, colleges, and financial aid. A free web version of Florida CHOICES is available at [www.flchoices.org](http://www.flchoices.org). Over 500,000 Floridians have visited this site to get assistance in selecting a personalized career. Okeechobee High School students may also visit the Career Resource Center in the counselor's office to learn more about a comprehensive, multi-leveled, career planning system called Bridges. The Career Specialist will set up an appointment for parents and students to explore this interactive site filled with career information.



After selecting a career, students at OHS may choose to enroll in the following programs:

- |                                   |                                    |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Accounting Operations           | * Automotive Service Technology    |
| • Agriculture Machinery Mechanics | * Building Construction Technology |
| • Animal Science Services         | * Digital Design                   |
| • Aquaculture                     | * Nursing Assistant                |

After completing a program, students may gain additional college credits with Indian River State College through an articulation agreement.

To explore even more careers, upperclassmen may decide to participate in the internship program. After researching an occupation and completing a resume', students have an opportunity to intern in businesses throughout Okeechobee County.

By providing such comprehensive services in career and technical education, students should be able to select a career based on their interests, enroll in courses that provide technical skills needed in that career area, potentially earn college credit, and, most importantly, enter employment well prepared to work.



**Okeechobee County Virtual Instruction Programs:** Recent changes in legislation have expanded opportunities for students to include virtual courses as a part of their school schedule. The District School Board of Okeechobee County offers eligible students full and part-time virtual school options each school year with instruction guided by certified educators. Virtual courses are for self-motivated learners who know how to organize their time and see tasks through completion. Parents of students taking virtual courses must be prepared to commit to a schedule of monthly calls with the virtual school teacher in order to review academic progress. To learn more, please visit <http://www.okee.k12.fl.us> or <http://www2.nefec.org/virtual/> to view more information about virtual school offerings from MOSAIC, MyDistrict Virtual and Florida Virtual School, Connections Learning.

## Step Into Your Future!

The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program has helped more than 660,000 Florida students attend a postsecondary institution. The program offers three types of scholarship awards – the Florida Academic Scholars award (FAS), the Florida Medallion Scholars award (FMS), and the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award (GSV).

**2017-  
2018  
Florida  
Bright  
Futures**



Go to [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf) to find out how to qualify for a Bright Futures Scholarship.

Go to [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org) and submit a completed, error free Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) during your last year of high school, by graduation.

**Make the grade, earn the score....and graduate!** The Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program is created to establish a lottery-funded scholarship program to reward any Florida high school graduate who merits recognition of high academic achievement. The graduate must enroll in a degree program, certificate program, or applied technology program at an eligible Florida public or private postsecondary education institution.

**Know your responsibilities....apply, meet the requirements before graduation & throughout your college career.** (Requirements are subject to change with each Florida Legislative session.)

Office of Student Financial Assistance website: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)

Toll-Free: 888-827-2004

E-mail: [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org)

**Verification of Receipt** (This is not the application for the scholarship.)

I verify that I have received this notice and will read the initial eligibility requirements of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program for the 2015-16 academic year.

NAME (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this verification portion to your high school counselor.

## College & Career Planning Services

The Okeechobee High School College and Career Center offers a variety of services for students and families to plan for graduation and college and career success. Starting in 8th grade, students participate in a Career Fair and attend a spring tour of OHS Career and Technical programs. Parents of Freshmen and Sophomores are offered evening scheduling to increase involvement in their student's graduation plan. Dual Enrollment (DE) classes are offered in a variety of academic subjects and career fields. PERT, SAT, and ACT are offered at various times of the year to determine college and career readiness. Sophomores take PSAT in the fall. Juniors take PSAT/NMSQT to enter in the National Merit Scholarship competition. Juniors take SAT School Day in March. All students have access to Khan Academy for free SAT test prep. OHS hosts College Fair Day and Career Day in the fall and Financial Aid Night in January. FAFSA Nights occur frequently for Seniors and their parents to assist with the Federal Student Aid application. The ASVAB (Military) test is given twice a year. Contact the College and Career Center in the Guidance office for more information.

## **Educational Choice Is An Option**

### **Controlled Open Enrollment**

The School District of Okeechobee allows parents to declare school attendance preferences. This system is called Controlled Open Enrollment. Parents may choose to apply for a "zone waiver" for any school of their choice that has not reached capacity. Zone waivers are approved through a lottery system. For any student who attends a school on a zone waiver, the parents must provide transportation to and from school. For more information about Controlled Open Enrollment, please contact the Student Services Office at 863-462-5000 ext. 260.

Students may be assigned to the "**alternative school**" if they have been in trouble in the community or need specialized programs.

A parent of a special education student or a student with a 504 plan may request a different public school or receive a scholarship to attend a private school through the "**John McKay Scholarship Program**". In order to take advantage of this option parents can contact the Exceptional Education Office at (863) 462-5000 Ext. 255 for more information. You can access information at [www.floridaschoolchoice.org](http://www.floridaschoolchoice.org).

A parent may choose to enroll their child (grades K-12) in Florida Virtual School internet computer-based public school. Contact the school Counselor for more information.

Parents also have a choice of enrolling their child in a "**Home School Program**". They are responsible for educating their own child and reporting annually to the superintendent about their progress.

Information on the Home Education Program is available from the county office (863) 462-5000 Ext. 260.

## **English Language Learners (ELLs)**

Students identified as English Language Learners are served according to provisions of the Okeechobee County School Board District ELL Plan. This plan establishes procedures for identification, assessment, comprehensive instruction, parental involvement and personnel training regarding services to students with limited English proficiency. Copies of the District ELL Plan are available at the School Board Office, room 306. In addition, parents/guardians of ELL students are encouraged to participate in our District Parent Leadership Council. For more information on our ELL program contact 462-5000, extension 260.

## **School Based Intervention and Support**

Every child's path to a successful goal of a diploma is not always the same. Some children may need additional supports to master that goal. During your child's school years, you will be meeting with the staff of your child's school to discuss the specific issues and educational needs of your child. A teacher along with the school counselor may request to have a team of professionals meet to discuss your child's academic, communication, behavior, or emotional concerns. This team is called the School Based Intervention Team (S-BIT). The team reviews your child's records and progress and assists in identifying and analyzing concerns. Interventions (or tiered levels) are recommended by the team and a plan to monitor your child's response and determine the level of progress is developed. The team regularly reviews your child's response to interventions. This is known as Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). MTSS addresses academic and behavioral concerns through Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS). Positive Behavior Support is aimed at building effective school-wide environments in which positive behavior is more effective than problem behavior so academic success can be achieved. Contact the School Counselor for more information. Sometimes a student, despite appropriate interventions, continues to exhibit academic and/or behavioral concerns. In those cases the schools S-BIT may invite the school psychologist to work with the team in developing an evaluation plan. The evaluation is to assist the S-BIT in educational planning and programming and to help determine if your child is eligible for special education services provided by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Information Act. (IDEIA). Each school in our district, in addition to a counselor, has a school psychologist, ESE Resource Specialist and behavior intervention specialist that you may contact. This person will help you with any concerns or questions regarding the interventions, referral for testing process, the actual testing or ESE programs and services your child is involved in. Contact the ESE office (863) 462-5000 Ext. 255. In addition to tiered interventions through MTSS, there is a district social worker and two mental health counselors available to all students needing support for social and/or mental health counseling needs. If interested in these services, contact your child's school counselor to make a referral.



## If your child needs extra help in school...

He/she may need to be in a special program. You have the right under federal law called *Individuals with Disabilities Education Information Act (IDEIA)* to be a part of the planning of any program that is going to be used to meet your child's special needs.

- You have the right to ask for the school to test your child for free if you think he may need special educational services, or if the services he is already receiving are not working.
- You have the right to request a free, independent evaluation of your child if you disagree with the results of the school's test.
- You have the right to participate in the development of your child's Individual Educational Plan (IEP).
- You have the right to be represented by an attorney or advocate if you disagree with the educational program provided to your child.

- You and your child have certain rights that concern access to information about your child, freedom of speech and special education program.

If you have questions about other rights given to you by this act contact the Exceptional Student Education office at (863) 462-5000 Ext. 255.

If a child is exhibiting signs of boredom and has high grades or test scores, they may need the enrichment class for *gifted* students. The child will need to be referred for evaluation and must meet criteria set out by the state. If the team determines they need and qualify for the program, an educational plan (EP) that addresses their needs will be written. The child receives instruction and enrichment in research skills and higher order thinking skills.



## Your Child Has A Right to Special Accommodations and Modifications

Parents are a part of the process of planning and delivering services to their child. You will want to work with the school by giving information, asking questions, making suggestions and helping to make decisions.

Once a child is determined eligible for special services, an **Individual Educational Plan (IEP)** is developed.

The plan tells you, the teachers and other school staff which special services will be provided to your child. Your child may need changes in teaching or testing in order to make progress and demonstrate what he or she has learned.

**Accommodations** are changes in how a child is taught or tested such as books on tape, extra time for tests or having a behavior contract. The accommodations could include:

- Different presentation-in large print, Braille, signed or oral presentation
- Different responding-writing in test booklet, separate paper, Braille or verbally answering questions
- Different scheduling-use of extended time, take the test over several brief sessions
- Different setting-in small groups, individually or in a specialized classroom to ac-

commodate special lighting or equipment.

- Different assistive devices-calculators, technology devices, or visual, auditory magnification devices.

Other unique accommodations may be approved as long as they have been regularly used by the student for classroom instruction and must not alter the content of the test.

**Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973** prohibits discrimination against any person with a disability by the school district. It requires the district to provide equal access to all programs. There are procedural safeguards regarding the identification, evaluation or educational placement of eligible students with disabilities. Any decision may be challenged and all records may be examined by the parent or guardian. In the event a parent requests an impartial hearing they may contact the 504 coordinator and ESE Director at (863) 462-5000 ext. 255. An impartial hearing allows for participation by the student's parent or guardian and representation by counsel. In addition, if the parent or guardian disagrees with the hearing decision there is a review procedure in place. Written procedural safeguards are available from the 504 coordinator.



## DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION



### Okeechobee County School District

700 S.W. Second Avenue  
Okeechobee, Florida 34974  
(863) 462 – 5000

<http://www.okee.k12.fl.us>

**Superintendent: Ken Kenworthy**



#### MISSION

*To prepare all students to be college and career ready and function as productive citizens.*

#### School Board Members

Malissa Morgan	Chairperson
Jill Holcomb	Vice Chairperson
Joe Arnold	Board Member
Dixie Ball	Board Member
Amanda Fuchswanz	Board Member

#### Elementary Schools

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Assistant Principal</u>
Central Elementary	462-5077	Joseph Stanley	Christina Norman
Everglades Elementary	462-5108	Leslie Lundy	Jenni Ellis
North Elementary	462-5100	Tuuli Robinson	Shundra Dowers
Seminole Elementary	462-5116	Thelma Jackson	Cynthia Kubit
South Elementary	462-5087	Tracy Downing	Bryan Van Camp

#### Secondary Schools

Middle Schools:			
Osceola Middle School	462-5070	Sean Downing	Erin Willis
Yearling Middle School	462-5056	Jody Hays	Emily Streelman
High Schools:			
Okeechobee Achievement Academy	462-5125	Randal Weigum	
OHS/Freshman Campus	462-5288	Carol Revels, Senior Adm.	
Okeechobee High School	462-5025	Dylan Tedders	Vicki Goggans, Lauren Myers

#### District Administrators

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Title</u>
Brian Barrett	462-5083	Director of Operations
Lisa Bell	462-5148	Supervisor of Food Service
Michelle Branham	462-5000 X 260	Coordinator, K-12 Accountability and Assessment
Wendy Coker	462-5000 X 255	Director of Exceptional Student Education
Donna Garcia	462-5000 X 295	Coordinator of Professional Development
Renee Geeting	462-5000 X 261	Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Nicole Havee	462-5146	Supervisor of Transportation
Rashan Jones	462-5704 X 2003	Coordinator of Network Systems
Shawna May	462-5704 X 2017	Director of Information Technology
Pat McCoy	462-5000 X 235	Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services
Yolanda Steiert	462-5000 X 242	Coordinator of Grants and Special Programs
Corey Wheeler	462-5000 X 296	Director of Finance
Toni Wiersma	462-5000 X 260	Director of Student Services
Sherry Wise	462-5000 X 222	Director of Human Resources

***ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE: PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST***