Superintendent Report

Superintendent, Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell
March 26, 2025

OAKLAND UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Community Schools, Thriving Students

Our Vision

All OUSD students will find joy in their academic experience while graduating with the skills to ensure they are caring, competent, fully-informed, critical thinkers who are prepared for college, career, and community success.

Our Mission

Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) will build a Full Service Community District focused on high academic achievement while serving the whole child, eliminating inequity, and providing each child with excellent teachers, every day.

Superintendent Report Overview

District Highlights

Attendance Update

Mid Year Report Highlights: Creating Joyful Schools

District Highlights

Science Literacy Receives Big Boost at Urban Promise Academy

Students and their pursuit of science literacy at Urban Promise Academy received a major shot in the arm on March 10. There was a special check presentation in which the Campos Foundation gave a check to students, teachers, and school leaders to fund the creation of a new SmartLab on campus to support the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education of the school's 6th-8th graders.

Principal Tierre Mesa welcomed everyone and explained what the event was about and then the team from Campos presented an oversized check to the students.

All told, the grant is for $178,367.27 and will go to fund the new lab which will include technology such as computers, 3D printers, robotics kits, drones, and podcasting, giving students access to a wide range of tools to enhance their learning experience.

Initiative: Strong Readers

www.ousd.org/strategicplan

Students Thrive at 3rd Annual OUSD Robotics Invitational

Chabot Space & Science Center was the center of the robotics world in Oakland on March 11. Students from more than a dozen OUSD schools converged on the center to put the robots they created up against other schools' creations. The competition was fierce and educational, and it was especially inspiring to the elementary school learners on hand, as they got to watch the high school and middle school students and their robots battle it out.

The students took part in the day with different challenges for their age groups. The schools were Brookfield Elementary, International Community School, Lockwood STEAM Academy, Claremont Middle, Elmhurst United Middle, Roosevelt Middle, CCPA Middle, and CCPA, Fremont, McClymonds, Oakland, Oakland Tech, and Skyline high schools.

Numerous students said they are interested in robotics as possible future careers.

Initiative: Empowered Graduates
www.ousd.org/strategicplan

Schools Hold Ribbon Cutting for New Eat. Learn. Play. Playground

March 10 was a big day at the Stonehurst campus where the co-located Esperanza Elementary and Korematsu Discovery Academy held the official ribbon cutting for their new playground courtesy of Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation.

Most of the project was completed in the fall, but it took some extra time to get the safety matting under the play structures installed.

The new space includes the play structures, sport courts, a wonderful outdoor classroom and nature area, and amazing new murals.

OUSD thanks Eat. Learn. Play., the Curry family, KABOOM! and all their partners and supporters for another amazing playground for our students.

Initiative: Joyful Schools

www.ousd.org/strategicplan

UPA Students & Staff Celebrate Pi Day with Pies to the Face

March 14 (3.14) was Pi Day, and Urban Promise Academy celebrated the day with a fun and educational event. The number pi, which is a numerical constant representing the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter, presents a unique challenge for students to memorize as many digits of the infinite number as possible. The exercise had its payoff on Friday when the students in each grade tested their memories. The math teachers volunteered to be pied by the student in each grade who memorized the most digits of pi.

In 7th grade, student Ceiba got to pie teacher Mychael Smith (pictured). In 6th grade, students Jeremy and Emma got to pie teachers Beck Johnstone and Ann-Marie Gamble. And the overall winner was 8th grader Camila who memorized 52 digits. She pied teacher Erika Granger.

Each pie in the face delighted all the students, and all the teachers took their pies with grace.

Initiative: Diverse and Stable Staff

www.ousd.org/strategicplan

Attendance Update

Absence Rate By Network

Network	Absence Rate (as of March 24, 2024)	Absence Rate (as of March 19, 2025)	Delta
Network 2	7.7%	6.9%	-0.8%
Network 3	8.8%	8.1%	-0.7%
Network 4	8.7%	8.2%	-0.5%
Middle School Network	9.4%	8.5%	-0.9%
High School Network	12.9%	11.6%	-1.3%
Special Education Programs	19.8%	16.4%	-3.4%

Absence Rate By Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Absence Rate (as of March 24, 2024)	Absence Rate (as of March 19, 2025)	Delta
Afr. Am	13%	11.9%	-1.1%
Asian	5.7%	5.0%	-0.7%
Filipino	7.6%	5.9%	-1.7%
Latino	10.6%	9.7%	-0.9%
Multiple Ethnicity	7.7%	6.7%	-1.0%
Native Amer.	13%	10.9%	-2.1%
Not Reported	10.2%	8.8%	-1.4%
Pacific Islander	15.5%	15.1%	-0.4%
White	6.5%	5.7%	-0.8%

Best Practices & Areas of Improvement

Best Practices

- Teacher education to build collective responsibility, about the importance of attendance.
- Positive and consistent family engagement.
- Teacher collective efficacy: teams that work together and set each other up for success by doing whatever needs to get done for kids.
- Defining and teaching "good attendance" to students.
- Positive and engaging school culture that engage and re engage students around attendance and school connectedness.

Areas of Improvement

- The executive orders from the President's Office aimed at deporting undocumented children and families has had a negative impact on attendance since the month of January.
  - Understanding how to support families given the real fear that exists in the community, while also encouraging students to continue to attend school is a true dilemma.

All Elementary Sites: Morning Absence Notice

1. ParentSquare Attendance Alert for elementary students.
2. Mid morning message goes to parents of absent students, daily at 10:00am.
3. Message asks parents to bring students to school if they are not ill.

1. Alert to ensure students are in school progressing educationally and OUSD receiving more ADA funding.
2. 2024-25, an increase of 5% of elementary students attending school, with the mid morning message, than last year.

Show UP!

Returning from Sickness Guidance: Working cross departmentally we developed a website, and a PSA campaign to share the latest guidance from the county with our families and community.

Our Partnership Continues: Spreading Joy and excitement, while encouraging attendance the Roots Soccer Club offered a free ticket every OUSD student. Over 2,500 tickets were claimed by students for opening night! There is more Joy coming this season as this partnership grows and expands beyond attendance to support computer science, fashion and sustainable design.
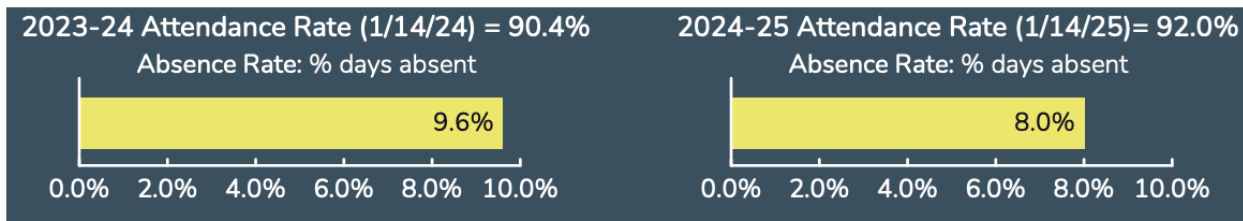
Creating Joyful Schools

Improving Attendance & Reducing Chronic Absenteeism

We are currently on track to meet our goal of 1% point improvement, with a current attendance increase of 1.6%.

Put simply, students cannot learn if they are not in class. As absences increase - even in the early years of elementary school - the likelihood of a student performing at grade level decreases.

In OUSD, our vision outlines a goal of continuous improvement in the attendance rate year after year, specifically a 1% increase each year starting in 2024-25 and going through 2026-27.

2023-24 Attendance Rate (1/14/24) = 90.4%
Absence Rate: % days absent
9.6%
0.0% 2.0% 4.0% 6.0% 8.0% 10.0%

2024-25 Attendance Rate (1/14/25)= 92.0%
Absence Rate: % days absent
8.0%
0.0% 2.0% 4.0% 6.0% 8.0% 10.0%

Why is a change of 1% Significant

A 1% increase in attendance is crucial because even small improvements in student presence impact academic achievement, leading to better learning outcomes, increased graduation rates, and a positive ripple effect on overall school and community success.

Furthermore, even a slight improvement in attendance across the district yields increased revenue.

Conservative estimates indicate that OUSD would receive an additional $4.5M next year for every 1% increase in attendance.

Why is a change of 1% Significant

Fortunately we are on track to exceed our 1% improvement goal for the year. At the midway point of the 2024-25 school year, our attendance rate is 92%, compared to 90.4% at this same point in time last year, a 1.6% increase.

In addition, we set a goal for 100% of teachers to take attendance every day and we are very close to achieving that mark. Since the start of the current school year through mid January 2025, we have a district-wide attendance completion rate of 99.6%! A year ago at this time, we had a completion rate of approximately 97.5%.

Chronic Absenteeism

The Chronic Absenteeism rate captures the percentage of students who were absent for 10 percent or more of the instructional days they were enrolled to attend. This is due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions— and can have adverse impacts on students' learning to read by the third grade, achieving in middle school, and graduating from high school.

In OUSD, we are working toward decreasing the chronic absenteeism rate by 3% each year from now through the end of the 2026-27 school year.

At the midway point of this school year, we have a chronic absenteeism rate of 24.2% compared to 31.9% at this point last year, an improvement of 7.7%.

Visual and Performing Arts Programs (VAPA)

The past 4 years have seen incremental growth in our Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) programs at all levels providing a variety of art forms including dance, drama, media arts, music and visual art. Beginning this year, all elementary (TK-5) students will receive at least 50 minutes per week of arts instruction by a certificated teacher; this is something OUSD hasn't been able to say since 1988! Moreover, the OUSD VAPA office currently supports 25 schools in developing partnerships with community organizations, provides tailored professional development to elementary teachers on a weekly basis, secondary teachers on a monthly basis and offers new teacher support.

Dance instructor Heather Stockton leads kindergartners at Grass Valley Elementary in Oakland. Photo: Carlos Avila Gonzalez / The Chronicle

Middle School Computer Science

Thanks to the generous support of Salesforce, Middle School Computer Science has grown from something that was happening for a few students at two schools to a class offered at every middle school across the district. This year there are 1,774 students at 12 schools enrolled in Computer Science. Bringing the total number of students who have taken CS since the start of the Salesforce Grant in 2017 to 12,809. With continued support the course will expand to give students experiences with physical computing, robotics and a variety of programming languages in the coming years.

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