

State of Education in Oakland Unified School District

**Presented to
The Education Partnership Committee**

**Oakland City Council Chambers
September 22, 2025**

Superintendent Dr. Denise Saddler



**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.



INITIATIVE #1

Ensuring Strong Readers by the Third Grade



INITIATIVE #2

Supporting Powerful Graduates



INITIATIVE #3

Creating Joyful Schools



INITIATIVE #4

Growing a Diverse and Stable Staff



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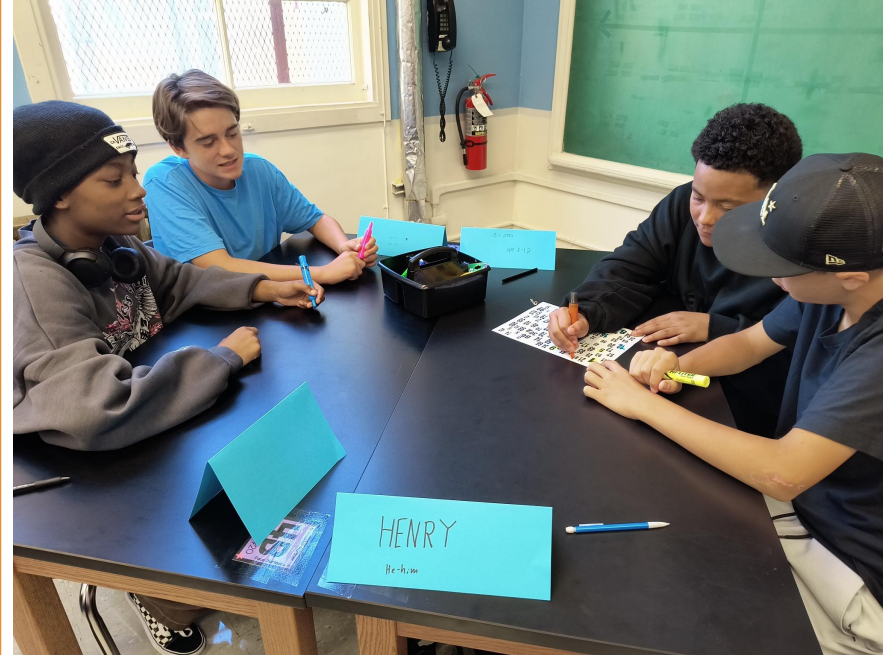
Strong Readers



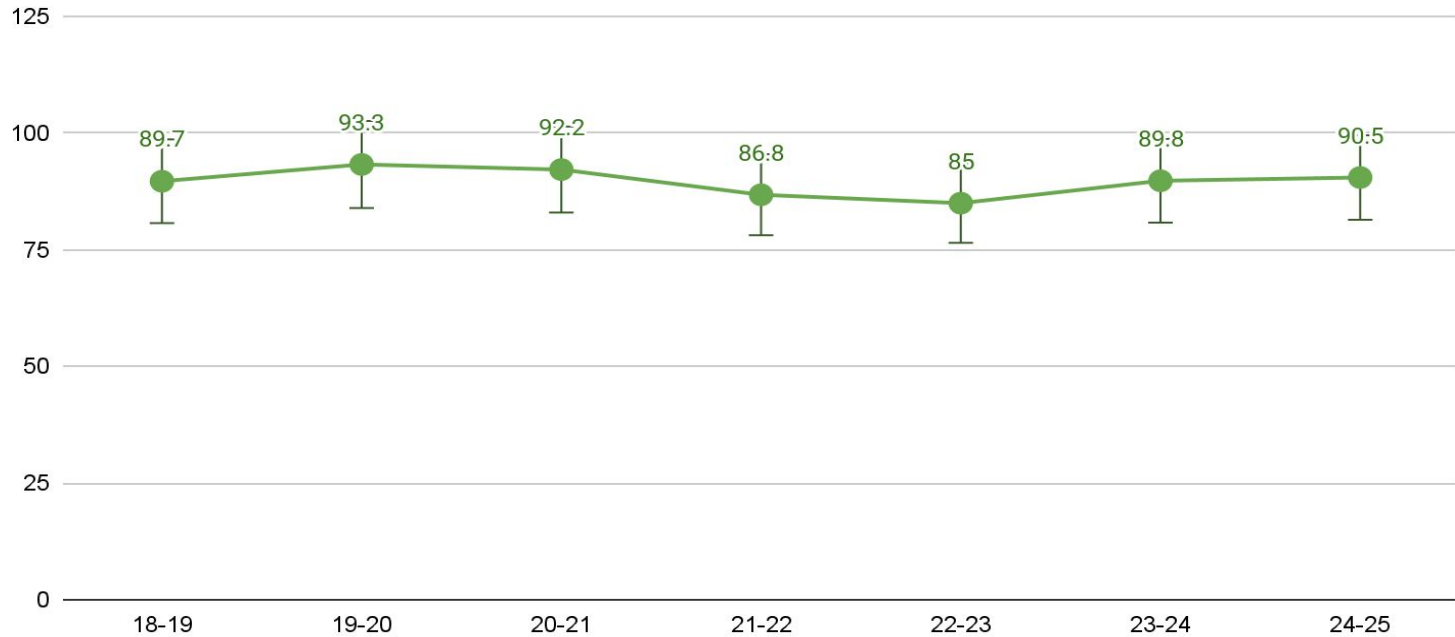
- Improved K-5 Literacy by 2% over 2 years
- Improved 6-8 Literacy by 3% over 2 years
- Began administering High School Reading i-Ready assessments last year
- Adopted updated curriculum so teachers have adequate tools
- Invested in Literacy Tutors and Teachers
- Improved - yet still much room for growth, especially at Secondary level

Joyful Schools: Attendance Improvements

- We increased our attendance rate by .8% from 2023-24 to 2024-25
- We are not yet at the same attendance rate as before the pandemic
- School sites have Attendance Teams to lead attendance interventions
- Identified schools have an added layer of case managers for student support



Attendance Rate: 2018-2025



Increased A-G Rates



- Increased A-G Rate by 6.5% over 2 years
- Improved course descriptions so that more OUSD courses qualified as an A-G Class
- Provided additional staffing to accommodate student course needs
- Increased our credit recovery options so students could access courses they had difficulty passing

Rising Graduation Rates

- Increased Graduation Rate by 5.4% over 2 years
- Goal is to reach above 80% Graduation Rate; in 2023-24, reached 79.5%
- Early calculations reveal we surpassed our target of 80% for last year, 2024-25! (Soon to be released by CDE.)



College Readiness and Success



For the second year in a row, OUSD has seven graduates who are now first-year students at Northeastern University Oakland on full-ride scholarships. They each won what's called the Oakland Opportunity Scholarship which nets each of them \$340,000 to cover tuition and room and board for their four year college careers. And each of them will get to study at other Northeastern campuses including in Boston and London.

The students are (L-R) **Idayat Okuboyejo** from Oakland High, **Daniel Alfaro**, **Macie Chao**, and **Richard Purev** from Oakland Tech, and **Lei'ani Donaldson** from CCPA. Not pictured are **Keona Hennings** and **Quy Nguyen** from Skyline High.

Critical Community Partnerships

Community partnerships are critical to all that we do for our students. They fund computer science, staff wellness, and our literacy initiatives. They bring thousands of volunteers into our schools, and they create dozens of vibrant new school yards our young people will get to enjoy for a generation.

The Oakland Public Education Fund, Salesforce, Kaiser Permanente, Kenneth Rainin Foundation, Golden State Community Foundation, Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation, and so many others have collectively contributed hundreds of millions of dollars to support our schools and students.



Working for a Balanced Budget



OUSD Recently Exited Receivership After 22 Years

- Keeping district on solid financial ground is paramount
- Decreasing revenues are caused by lower attendance and enrollment, some of which can be attributed to lower birth rates, and families leaving the city
- Will need to make significant changes to 2026-27 budget

OUSD Vision for 2025-26 & Beyond

Maintain Focus on District Strategic Plan and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Continuous School Improvement Framework:

- ★ Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) - Attendance and Suspension
- ★ English Language Learning: Designated and Integrated English Language Development, Newcomer Drop-out rate
- ★ Special Education IEP Quality & Completion



APPENDIX

Targets for Success: iReady % Mid/Above Grade

Focus Area	2022- 2023	2023- 2024	2024-25 Actual
iReady Reading (K-5)	27.9%	29.7%	29.6%
iReady Reading (6-8)	16.0%	17.0%	20.3%
iReady Reading (9-12)	N/A	N/A	7.8%
iReady Math (K-5)	21.6%	24.7%	25.8%

2025-2026 Target

iReady: A minimum 5-10% increase in % on grade level in iReady ELA and Math.

Targets for Success: Graduation Rate

Focus Area	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025 Target
A-G Rate	42.2%	48.7%	Target for A-G completion is 60%. Increase the number of students passing an A-G course by 5% at each school.
Graduation Rate	74.1%	79.5%	Target Graduation rate is 80% districtwide.
Increase Graduation Rate by 5%	NA	NA	All schools increase their graduation rate by 5%.



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