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HAL GREGORY, Superintendent

www.oregoncityschools.org

Dear Parents, Families, and Community members,

I want to share information about what the state has recently done deeming Jerusalem Elementary and Eisenhower Intermediate "low performing" schools. Once again, the rules have changed and the flow of public funds to private schools continues to be easier based on politics.....not data!

Changes to state law have more than tripled the number of districts declared part of the voucher program, from 40 in 2018-19 to 139 this school year and even more expected in the upcoming year.

The EdChoice program allows for students who attend a "low performing" public school to take local tax dollars to any private school they want, regardless of scores or accountability. More public money than ever before is going to private "low performing" schools, with much lower scores and accountability than public schools. That is the case in our community. Not a great use of public funds if you ask me.

OCS leaders, teachers, support staff and volunteers educate and love our students each and every day. Our test scores can improve, yes, but our climate, curriculum, and the atmosphere students experience everyday is most important. Allowing each child to become the best version of themselves, no matter what socio-economic or early childhood advantages or disadvantages they may have, is our mission.

State testing should not be "the" measure of a school, but since state testing is what allows a student to be eligible for EdChoice, here is local data I want our families to be aware of.

Recently, a local private school made a Facebook post referencing the EdChoice scholarship and which public schools are deemed "low performing." I am sharing with you comparison data facts. Based on the latest data available (FY18), here is how Jerusalem, Eisenhower, and OCS overall compared to Cardinal Stritch Catholic HS and Academy (CS).

Question: If two OCS schools are low performing, then what category does CS fall into? Answer: No category, because private schools do not get a grade/rating like public schools.

FY 18 Data, Overall test passage rates. OCS scores are superior when compared.

Grade 3	CS=54%	Jerusalem=76%	OCS=74%
Grade 4	CS=32%	Jerusalem=69%	OCS=74%
Grade 7	CS=35%	Fassett=66%	OCS=65%

Overall passage rates for EdChoice Scholarship specific students attending CS:

Year 1=32%

Year 2=19%

Private test scores are data points everyone needs to consider when making a choice between private and public schools. Families who are considering using EdChoice Scholarship money should realize the private school they are considering may have lower testing results than OCS schools, and often significantly lower scores.

For more information regarding private school data, please visit the following website.

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Other-Resources/Scholarships/Test-Scores-for-Voucher-Students/Scholarship-Student-Proficiency-Dashboard>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal D. Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H" and "G".

Hal D. Gregory
Superintendent
Oregon City Schools - Go Eagles!