

Overview of Program Comparisons Between the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools and the Orange County Schools

The staffs of the two school districts have worked cooperatively to develop a comparison of program differences and similarities between the two districts in twelve areas. Summary tables are provided in this report along with more detailed, back-up sheets. Overall, the staff was previously aware of most of the differences that were identified and found them, in some cases, to be less than what was expected. At the same time, it is clear that disparities exist and significant resources would be required to eliminate them.

Although generalizations are sometimes difficult to draw about such extensive programs, the following conclusions regarding differences between the districts have been reached at this time:

Personnel

- OCS tends to have smaller class sizes in grades K-5, smaller core classes in middle school, and larger core classes in high school.
- CHCCS tends to provide more specialists, certified support personnel, and teacher assistants.
- OCS tends to allocate personnel at the district level whereas CHCCS allocates positions directly to schools based on enrollment
- If each district's allocations were brought up to the level of the better allocated district, significant number of personnel would need to be added in both districts.

Elementary Programs

- CHCCS provides additional positions such as world language teachers, science specialists, and literacy collaborative specialists.
- CHCCS offers a more expansive summer school program; OCS has a kindergarten academy in addition to its summer school program.
- OCS offers a year-round option
- Overall approach to elementary education is similar in the two districts

Secondary Programs

- The districts have different graduation requirements, including a service learning requirement in CHCCS
- OCS offers a year-round middle school option

Core Courses High School

- AP course offerings are fairly similar, with CHCCS having more in world languages
- CHCCS offers Japanese and German
- OCS offers more honors options in social studies and science; CHCCS offers more AP courses and electives in social studies

Career and Technical Education

- Both districts' programs go beyond the Standard Course of Study; however, they offer considerably different courses and other opportunities. CHCCS has Finance and IT Academies whereas OCS has strong agricultural pathways and programs in culinary arts, cosmetology, carpentry, and early childhood.
- Opportunities exist for greater collaboration in this area

Core Courses Middle School

- CHCCS offers more electives, including German and Latin and second year languages

Arts Courses High School

- OCS offers year-long courses whereas many CHCCS courses are semester
- CHCCS has more specific courses in the arts and a wider array of offerings
- CHCCS offers orchestra/strings
- Comparability would require additional staff and facility upgrades

Arts Courses Middle School

- CHCCS offers dramatic arts, orchestra, and dance
- OCS courses are broader in scope and more interdisciplinary
- Comparability would require additional staff and facility upgrades

Athletics

- Both districts have strong athletic programs at the high school and middle school levels. CHCCS offers a few sports that OCS either doesn't offer or plays on a co-ed basis (e.g. field hockey, golf, and lacrosse)
- CHCCS coaching supplements are generally higher

Exceptional Children

- CHCCS provides more extensive services in this area to a larger population of students and has more instructional and support personnel

Supplements and Benefits

- CHCCS salary supplements for teachers and student support personnel tend to be higher.
- CHCCS stipends for athletics and co-curricular activities tend to be higher.

Clubs and Activities

- Although both districts have an extensive array of clubs, CHCCS has about twice as many, including more clubs emphasizing diversity.