



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.
Office of the Superintendent



December 9, 2025

It is my pleasure to express Orange Public Schools' strong support for RWJBarnabas Health and the renewal of State-appropriated funds to RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) in the FY 2027 New Jersey State Budget.

Orange Public Schools proudly serves more than 6,000 students and is deeply committed to creating environments where children and families can thrive. A truly healthy city is one that continuously learns and evolves. In that spirit, our mission aligns closely with RWJBH's dedication to building and sustaining healthier communities. As an anchor institution, RWJBH plays a vital role in addressing barriers that impact educational outcomes, making its partnership indispensable to the work we do.

Through our collaboration, RWJBH has provided invaluable support for year-round community health education programs, professional development for staff, student internships, and family health clinics. These initiatives have strengthened our ability to meet the holistic needs of students and families, reinforcing the critical connection between health and education.

Our partnership with RWJBH spans several years and has consistently proven to be reliable, impactful, and mission-driven. Their expertise, robust community outreach infrastructure, and ability to mobilize resources have significantly enhanced our engagement efforts. Continued State-appropriated funding for RWJBH is essential: A reduction in funding would directly diminish the number of families we can serve and undermine our shared efforts to address the root causes of health disparities and educational challenges.

We express our sincere appreciation for our partnership with RWJBarnabas Health and remain grateful for their ongoing commitment to building and sustaining healthier communities throughout New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools
Orange Public School District