



AN ALLIANCE OF OHIO'S URBAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND TEACHER UNION PRESIDENTS

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Contact: Heidi Black, Ohio 8 Coordinator
(513) 532-8411
heidi@ohio8coalition.org
www.Ohio8Coalition.org

**THE OHIO 8 COALITION HIGHLIGHTS RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
FOR THEIR UNIQUE COMMUNITY OF STUDENTS**

COLUMBUS, OHIO – Ninety (90) percent of third-grade students enrolled in Ohio 8 Coalition School Districts met the third-grade reading guarantee and were promoted to the fourth grade in 2014, according to a new year-at-a-glance infographic released by The Ohio 8 Coalition districts (Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo, and Youngstown).

The Ohio 8 Coalition is proud to support the unique educational needs of every student in its districts, no matter where they came from, the amount of money their family earns, the languages they speak, or the physical or cognitive challenges they face.

The Ohio 8 Coalition enrolls 11% of Ohio students attending public schools, a total of nearly 200,000 students with a graduation rate of nearly 72%. In addition, The Ohio 8 Coalition provides enriching educational experiences for a very different student population than most school districts throughout the state. For example:

- The Ohio 8 serves 15% of the state's disabled student population.
- 30% of the state's English Language Learners (ELL) are enrolled in Ohio 8 Coalition schools.

Ohio 8 Co-chair and Canton City School District Superintendent Adrian E. Allison said: "The Ohio 8 Coalition represents a kaleidoscope of cultures unseen by most districts in the state. Our districts alone educate more than 45% of the state's multiracial, American Indian, Alaskan, Asian, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander students. Many students attending our schools have traveled a long way to call our communities home."

David Romick, Ohio 8 Coalition Co-chair and President of the Dayton Education Association, said The Ohio 8 student population reflects up to 108 countries of origin. "Add to that the diversity of languages spoken in our schools (up to 95 in some districts) including, Nepali, Vietnamese, Arabic, German, Dzongkha, Spanish, and French, and our students can't help but experience the world without even leaving Ohio," Romick said.

In addition to supporting the unique educational needs of every student, The Ohio 8 Coalition provides services that go above and beyond typical services in order to ensure that every child starts their day prepared to learn. Last year alone, The Ohio 8 Coalition districts invested in more than \$33 million in preschool opportunities for over 8,000 children and provided more than 36 million meals.

“We all know high quality early childhood experiences allows students to begin Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed and our investment as a Coalition is critical.” Said Adrian E. Allison, Ohio 8 Coalition Co-char and Superintendent of Canton City Schools. “Also, hungry students cannot learn and for some of our students the breakfast and lunch they receive at our schools are the best meals they receive all day.”

This year-at-a-glance document reflects that every day, the teachers and administrators within The Ohio 8 Coalition districts create enriching and inspiring learning environments that provide the greatest possible opportunities for their equally enriching and inspiring students.

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The Ohio 8 is a strategic alliance composed of the superintendents and teacher union presidents from Ohio’s eight urban school districts – Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. The Ohio 8 Coalition’s mission is to work with policy makers to improve academic performance, increase graduation rates and close the achievement gap for urban children throughout Ohio. The Coalition carries out its mission by working closely with legislators, educators, parents, labor and community officials. The Coalition brings a shared administrator-teacher voice to help shape state education policy.