



The OHIO 8

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

www.ohio8coalition.org

The Ohio 8 Coalition is a strategic alliance composed of superintendents and teacher union presidents from Ohio's 8 largest urban school districts—Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Toledo and Youngstown. Like many school districts, each has faced fiscal, academic and operational challenges; but each also has overcome significant barriers to improve academic performance. Below are just a few highlights of our academic successes.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Akron Public Schools (APS)

- Akron Early College was named one of *U.S. News and World Report's* 2013 "Best High Schools in America." and "Blue Ribbon School" in 2013.
- Firestone High School was named one of the best schools in the nation by *Newsweek* magazine based on graduation rate, college acceptance rate, SAT/ACT test scores, and scores of students enrolled in Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate.
- APS is expanding the International Baccalaureate Program to Case Elementary School and Litchfield Middle School in the Firestone Cluster with the International Baccalaureate Primary Years and Middle Years Programs.
- APS operates the Akron After School Program serving more than 5,400 students in partnership with the City of Akron and the LeBron James Family Foundation.
- In 2014, APS' students earned more than \$12 million in scholarships.

Canton City Schools (CCS)

- In 2013, CCS began implementation of a new transformation plan known as the Brighter Tomorrow Plan. Now in Phase III, the Brighter Tomorrow plan has resulted in many great accomplishments including the following:
 - All CCS middle schools were transformed from neighborhood schools to interest-based academies where students choose between Arts, Competency-based Instruction, Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Medicine (STEAMM); Career-Tech; and College and Career Readiness.
 - CCS transformed its 14 neighborhood elementary schools to seven K–2 Reading and Math Preparatory Schools and seven 3–5 Leadership Schools, which provide opportunities for grade-level collaborations among teacher teams, better designed classrooms and greater flexibility to innovate and explore.

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)

- A total of 97% of CPS' third grade students were promoted based on the Third Grade Guarantee.
- CPS improved the participation rate of under-represented students taking Advanced Placement courses by 12% during the last three years.
- CPS provided targeted support services for students through CPS' Community Learning Centers, resulting in improved academic performance, according to an independent evaluation.
- The 2013 *U.S. News & World Report* ranked CPS' Walnut Hills High School number 1 in the Ohio, and among the top 100 high schools in the nation.

Cleveland Metropolitan Schools (CMSD)

- CMSD has been monitoring school performance and developing strategies to improve student outcomes. This is evidenced by gains on its 2013-14 State Report Card that include:
 - Graduation rate is up 5% this year and up a total of 12.1% since 2011
 - Significant gains in grades 4–8 math achievement
 - Significant gains in 10th grade achievement
 - The continued growth is true for every student subgroup.
- CMSD opened 4 new schools including:
 - Facing History New Tech High School
 - Bard High School Early College Cleveland
 - Problem-Based Academy of Critical Thinking (PACT)
 - Eagle Academy, Cleveland High School for the Digital Art

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Columbus City Schools (CCS)

- CCS' five-year graduation rate rose to 85% for students who need an additional year of instruction.
- Nearly 88% of CCS' third graders successfully advanced to fourth grade, a significant improvement from the start of the school year, when nearly 60% were at risk of failing the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.
- African-American students' performance increased by 11.6 points in reading (to 79.4%), by 3.6 points in writing (to 76.8%), by 3.5 points in science (to 48.4%), and by 5.4 points in social studies (to 68.4%), which outpaced the district's overall improvement by 2.1 points on the Ohio Graduation Test.
- In 2014, 6 of Ohio's thirteen Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) were CCS students. The GMS is awarded annually to just 1,000 students across the country.

Dayton Public Schools (DPS)

- DPS opened Dunbar Early College High School, where a freshman who remains with the program for four years has the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma in one hand and a two-year college degree in the other, at no cost to the student or family.
- DPS' Thurgood Marshall High School became the region's newest Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) school.
- Stivers School for the Arts was issued a silver medal and ranks 66th (of 115 ranked) among America's best public high schools, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. Additionally, Dayton Early College Academy, a DPS-sponsored charter school, was awarded a bronze medal.
- DPS offers a mentoring program to refugee students who arrived without mentors, to help them adjust to a new education system and life in a new community.

Toledo Public Schools (TPS)

- TPS received a \$3.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to be part of a national program called Pathways to Prosperity that focuses on making students career-ready through rigorous academic and career-focused curriculum.
- TPS has improved from an F to an A grade in the All Student Growth category.
- TPS received the distinguished SOAR Award for placing in the top 15 districts in all Ohio for Value Added Growth for the 2013-14 school year.
- TPS continues to expand partnerships with 3 higher education institutions, including The University of Toledo, to provide dual enrollment courses for high school students.
- The Freshman Cluster program was started to engage ninth graders early in their high school careers, offering them individualized attention from a core group of teachers to make sure they graduate high school.

Youngstown City Schools (YCSD)

- Student performance realized gains in nearly 70% of the measured indicators (16 of 24) on the 2013 district report card.
- Youngstown Early College has been named "School of Promise" for 6 consecutive years and School of Honor for High Performance.
- The graduation rate increased four percentage points in the past year.

