



# The OHIO 8

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

[www.ohio8coalition.org](http://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 fiscal successes.

## FISCAL RESTRAINT AND EFFICIENCY

### Akron Public Schools (APS)

- APS received a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- APS offers free all-day kindergarten with small class sizes in every elementary school.
- Every K–12 student attending APS schools receives a free and nutritious breakfast and lunch under the Community Eligibility Option (CEO) of the USDA school meals program, all without cost to the district's general fund.
- APS offers dual enrollment classes with Stark State Community College and Lorain Community College at a reduced rate so students can obtain both high school and college credit.

### Canton City Schools (CCS)

- CCS received a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- Implementation of phase III of the Brighter Tomorrow Plan has saved the district \$1.5 million.
- CCS is part of an innovative and effective health insurance collaborative with approximately 30 school districts in and around Stark County.
- CCS is engaged in a HB 264 energy conservation project that is projected to save the district approximately \$6.7 million in utility costs over the next 15 years.
- CCS collaborates with other Stark County school districts in a cooperative purchasing plan.

### Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS)

- CPS received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) award for excellence in financial reporting in 2013 and a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- CPS completed a decade-long \$20 billion rebuilding program to renovate or rebuild schools for all students—on time and on budget.
- CPS has worked to adjust facilities management to match student enrollment during the past decade by closing or consolidating 20 schools.
- CPS earned a record \$5 million, five-year grant from The GE Foundation, which was extended for an additional three years to assist with implementation of the Common Core academic standards.

### Cleveland Metropolitan Schools (CMSD)

- CMSD received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) award for excellence in financial reporting in 2013 and a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- CMSD refunded bonds, which led to saving taxpayers over \$10 million.
- CMSD successfully passed issue 4 in November 2014, which will allow for construction of at least 20 new schools and the refurbishing of 20–23 schools; it will also generate \$2.5 million per year for building maintenance.

# FISCAL RESTRAINT AND EFFICIENCY

## Columbus City Schools (CCS)

- CCS received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) award for excellence in financial reporting in 2013.
- Examples of CCS' fiscal responsibility include reduced fiscal year 2015 budget expenditures by \$50 million and reduced human resource costs by more than \$6.5 million through a benefit premium holiday.
- CCS implemented a new quarterly budget monitoring process to review expenses and developed a hybrid zero-based budget process for fiscal year 2016.
- CCS continues to adjust facilities management to match student enrollment by closing and consolidating 37 buildings during the past decade, including the first high school closure in more than thirty years, to replace aging infrastructure with a 21st century learning environment.

## Dayton Public Schools (DPS)

- DPS received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) award for excellence in financial reporting in 2013 and a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- DPS' 2013–2014 classroom instructional percentage increased 2.6 percent over the prior fiscal year.
- DPS utilizes a zero-based budget process and positions control to manage staffing costs.
- DPS negotiated performance-based pay for teachers and a three-year step freeze to manage staffing costs and increase competitiveness.
- The City of Dayton was identified by WalletHub as one of the 2015 Cities with the Most Efficient Spending on Education.

## Toledo Public Schools (TPS)

- TPS received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFAO) award for excellence in financial reporting in 2013 and a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- In November 2014, TPS successfully passed its first new-money levy in 14 years, which equals an additional \$13.8 million and will support student, teacher and needs over the next 5 years.
- TPS spent more than \$100 million less than previous years in part due to Toledo's Transformation Plan, which restructured the district's elementary and middle school buildings into K-8 elementary neighborhood schools and implemented an inclusionary model for special education, saving approximately \$8 million per year.

## Youngstown City Schools (YCSD)

- YCSD received a clean financial audit from the Ohio Auditor of State.
- YCSD moved out of fiscal emergency in 2010.
- YCSD worked to adjust facilities management to match student enrollment by reducing the number of buildings from 20 to 14.
- YCSD implemented a district reorganization plan that resulted in a \$1.8 million savings district-wide.
- YCSD, having been successful in its bid for three 21st Century Grants, has further supported students in grades 7–12.