



## 2012-13 School Performance Data

This fall marked the release of new local report cards for Ohio's districts and schools. It also marks the beginning of a new era in accountability and academic rigor for Ohio students. For the past few years, the state of Ohio has done much to step up its educational game, with its Race to the Top application, transition to new Common Core standards and accompanying assessments, and overhaul of the report card system.

Passed into law last December, HB 555 put a plan in place to increase the scope and rigor of Ohio's grades for schools. These heightened expectations for schools have begun to address Ohio's issue of "grade inflation" (where the vast majority of districts received high marks, and an "A" or "B" essentially lost its meaning) and rally schools, educators, students, and communities toward greater rigor for all students.

This year's report card graded districts and schools in nine areas, including how students perform on state assessments, how much progress students make in a given school year, high school graduation rates, and progress toward closing gaps in achievement among student subgroups. More metrics will be added next year, and by 2015 schools will receive an overall letter grade. For now, schools are analyzing the new metrics and preparing for the full roll-out of the new standards and assessments.

OCCS works with its sponsored schools to set individualized performance goals, which are embedded in our contracts with each school's governing authority. First and foremost, we seek to ensure that each school's educational program is a success. We monitor this expectation by asking if students are reading, doing math, writing, and achieving in other subjects on grade level. We also expect schools to make ongoing academic gains. This year, many schools – including charter schools – saw grades plummet, not necessarily because schools or students were truly doing worse, but because the bar was set higher. This is true for all public schools statewide and especially those located in the Urban 8 (Ohio's largest eight cities) serving our most disadvantaged students. No district in the state received "straight As" on the report card, not even the previously high-performing ones.

Recent changes to Ohio's accountability system enable OCCS to better focus on what works in schools and how we can collaborate with our partners so that ALL of our schools can improve. The next few years offer a rare opportunity to ask the educational community and ourselves how we can do better so that we can do right by kids. Even our highest performing schools have room to grow. Are we serving students with disabilities to the highest level possible? What about gifted students, and previously untested students in grades K-2? Are we closing achievement gaps among groups of students such as those who are economically disadvantaged or whose primary language is not English?

Over the last several years, OCCS has seen performance and growth trends go up within its portfolio. Overall, we recognize that the road ahead is an arduous one. As a sponsor, we must continue to insist on quality, make tough choices about schools that are under-performing, and provide technical assistance and support to schools that need it. At the same time, it's important to celebrate our successes and highlight the work of schools that have made big gains. Here are trends worth noting from the 2012-13 school year:

- 18 OCCS-sponsored schools received higher Performance Index Scores (PIS, a weighted average of students' achievement in tested grades and subjects) in 2013, among those receiving a PIS in 2012. Four OCCS-sponsored schools increased their PIS by at least five points, a significant jump considering the scale for PIS is 0-120.
- Columbus Preparatory Academy's PIS of 112.9 made it the highest achieving charter school in Ohio and the ninth highest performing public school in the state.
- 40 percent of OCCS-sponsored schools receiving value-added results were rated as an "A" – this means that students enrolled in these schools exceeded a year's worth of growth during their previous academic year.

- Over 70 percent of the 26,000+ students enrolled in OCCS-sponsored schools during 2012-13 were enrolled in a school receiving a PIS grade of "C" or higher, outperforming Ohio's 8 largest urban districts (graph below).

