

Roadmap for Academic Reforms

Exciting 21st Century Learning Environments

- Our schools must become collaborative continuous learning organizations that build a culture of strong relationships, professionalism, collaboration, and common purpose for all students.
- Our schools must become a place where everyone feels safe, not just through metal detectors, but through high expectations, strong discipline, positive behavior interventions, a nurturing attention to the needs of each person, and a collective sense of responsibility by parents, educators, and community for our students to be competitive in the 21st century.
- Strategies to enhance creativity and innovation in the classroom must be encouraged and developed as an integral part of Ohio's educational system to prepare our students for the 21st century.
- Schools must become a place that acknowledges and recognizes the importance of global awareness and cultural competence. Our diversity in Ohio is an important asset in a global and interdependent world.
- Schools must create a stronger connection to our families and the larger community to provide the necessary supports and additional opportunities to ensure academic success for our students.
- Standards and curriculum must continue to focus on rigor and core knowledge but also establish expectations for our students to learn the 21st century skills that will empower them to be successful in an ever changing global marketplace.
- Academic performance measures must continue to support accountability but must also utilize multiple measures to provide educators with diagnostic information about the day to day learning of our students and to demonstrating a wide range of competencies and skills.
- Additional time during the learning day is needed for educators to collaborate and share best practices.
- Increasing the number of learning days during the year is essential and will provide opportunities for all students to achieve higher levels of success.
- How teachers teach is critical to the learning process. Students should be able to answer: Why and issue matters? What are the facts of a particular issue? How does the knowledge apply to in real life? And, how academic content can be understood, enriched and applied using creative thinking?
- Effective support strategies must be in place to provide all students with an opportunity for academic success, regardless of their personal situation, and to once and for all eliminate the achievement gap.

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- Educating the whole child, which includes wellness, physical education, emotional development, behavioral development, academic development, arts, music, will enhance the opportunities for student success.

Excellent Educators

- There must be seamless alignment between our institutions of higher education and our K-12 classrooms to provide educators with the training and professional development to ensure the success for our students.
- The preparation for becoming a teacher must involve a residency experience in which an aspiring educator receives an opportunity to obtain technical knowledge and real world experience in our classrooms.
- There must be opportunities for our best teachers to remain in the classroom to serve as mentors and coaches for each other by providing opportunities for professional growth and advancement in the profession.
- Through tracking the annual achievement of students we can improve the whole system by acknowledging successful teachers while encouraging ineffective teachers to leave the profession.
- We must and create a pipeline for talented individuals to enter the profession.

Efficient Accountability and Resource Management Systems

- There must be performance benchmarks and high quality operational standards in place to create an equal environment for all K-12 educational institutions that receive public dollars from the state.
- Improving the operational and fiscal accountability of all schools throughout Ohio's educational system is critically important and must become a hallmark of our approach to organizing and funding the services and programs that meet the needs of our students.
- Leveraging the resources and services of our ESCs that will improve the day to day operations of local school districts.
- Incentivizing our schools in need of improvement to pursue aggressive strategies to improve teaching and learning for our students that require the most attention.
- Create effective communication tools to inform the public about the fiscal and operational condition of the schools that receive public dollars from the state.
- Improving our technology system to meet the needs of our students in the 21st Century.