



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New state report cards continue to show link between poverty, student performance

COLUMBUS — Analysis of the Ohio School Report Cards released today shows poverty continues to be a driving factor in student performance at school districts across the state.

The analysis was conducted by Howard B. Fleeter, a consultant with the Education Tax Policy Institute (ETPI), on behalf of the Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA), Ohio Association of School Business Officials (OASBO) and Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA).

The findings show that scores on state standardized tests vary at school districts based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students enrolled. The analysis looked at the latest Performance Index scores, which measure student performance in a school district on state standardized tests. Click [here](#) for a graph showing the correlation between economically disadvantaged students and school district Performance Index scores.

The analysis shows, for example, that districts with a Performance Index score of 90 or less have 83.29% economically disadvantaged students, while districts with a score above 105 have 14.24% economically disadvantaged students.

Representatives from the three education management organizations had this to say about the findings:

— more —

New state report cards 2/2/2/2/2

“Today’s release of school district report cards underscores the continued strong link between poverty and student achievement,” said Damon Asbury, OSBA director of legislative services. “Data showing this correlation is dramatic, and it’s clear more work is needed in Ohio to address this gap.”

“Ohio students who are economically disadvantaged are much more likely to have a performance score lower than their peers,” said Tom Ash, BASA director of governmental relations. “And we know that just recognizing this link does not provide a solution for those students.”

“Ohio’s school-funding formula provides some funding for economically disadvantaged students, but we have not yet found a magic bullet,” said Barbara Shaner, OASBO associate executive director. “We need to better understand the link between poverty and achievement and put that understanding into action to improve students’ scores.”

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The Ohio School Boards Association leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

The Buckeye Association of School Administrators is a nonprofit professional organization of school system leaders, specifically, superintendents, central office administrators, building-level administrators, higher education administrators and faculty, graduate students and other educational personnel.

The Ohio Association of School Business Officials is a not-for-profit, professional association serving the continuing education and legislative needs of public school district treasurers/CFOs, business managers, transportation directors, food and nutrition directors, and district support staff.