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# THE TOP ACADEMIC OHIO HIGH SCHOOLS - 2008

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This document is an update to the one created last year in November 2008 for March 2007 performance. The intention was to release this report in September 2008 -- just in time for discussions concerning Ohio school performance and funding. Unfortunately that goal was unachievable because the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) did not release the private school data in a timely manner. Unlike previous years of releasing this data in August, the data was released on April 29, 2009, or eight months later than normal.

As with the previous report, this document identifies the best schools (both public and private) in Ohio based on each school's performance on the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT). Based on feedback received last year, this is the only report that examines both public and private schools together.

Again, please note that this information is somewhat dated but hopefully readers will find it to be worthwhile.

## **What Was Included?**

For those unfamiliar with the OGT results, there are five parts -- Reading, Mathematics, Writing, Science, and Social Studies. There is also a summary page that shows the percentage of students who successfully passed all five parts with a "Proficient" rating. The data used in this report is from those five parts and from the summary.

There were 983 schools (with 143,917 10<sup>th</sup> grade students) included in the analysis. The March 2008 OGT was used as the source of the data.

## **Methodology Used**

To get the initial group of schools to evaluate, the top schools were identified by using the percentage of students who scored "Proficient" on all five tests. This approach emphasizes the importance of getting all students to successfully pass the test. Those schools which had 91% of their 10th grade students pass all five portions of the test moved to the next round of the analysis. Last year, 59 schools (or 6%) made the cut. This year, 65 schools (or 6.6%) reached the 91% threshold. It should also be noted that 12 schools had 100% of their students pass all five portions this year, while seven schools accomplished this feat last year.

The 65 schools are listed below and sorted based on their proficiency on all five tests:

**TOP ACADEMIC OHIO HIGH SCHOOLS  
BASED ON % OF STUDENTS SCORING  
“PROFICIENT” ON ALL FIVE TESTS**

HIGH SCHOOL	COUNTY	NUMBER OF 10TH GRADE STUDENTS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING "PROFICIENT" ON ALL 5 TESTS	PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE "ADJUSTED"	NEW TO LIST
Columbus Academy	Franklin	88	100%	114.72	
Columbus School For Girls	Franklin	58	100%	115.97	
Granville Christian Academy	Licking	18	100%	113.89	New
Hawken	Geauga	108	100%	114.06	
Our Lady Of The Elms	Summit	41	100%	113.17	
Seven Hills	Hamilton	80	100%	115.85	
St Charles Preparatory	Franklin	152	100%	116.97	
St Joseph Central	Lawrence	15	100%	113.20	
Summit Country Day	Hamilton	77	100%	114.57	
University	Cuyahoga	86	100%	114.50	
Walnut Hills	Hamilton	345	100%	114.51	
Warren Christian	Trumbull	11	100%	110.18	
Ursuline Academy	Hamilton	179	99%	116.00	
Hathaway Brown	Cuyahoga	79	99%	115.45	
St Xavier	Hamilton	396	98%	113.52	
Maumee Valley Country	Lucas	54	98%	114.70	
Cincinnati Country Day	Hamilton	51	98%	112.14	
Western Reserve Academy	Summit	86	98%	112.30	
Oakwood	Montgomery	155	97%	114.39	
Walsh Jesuit	Summit	214	97%	112.13	
Miami Valley	Montgomery	35	97%	114.06	
Laurel	Cuyahoga	67	97%	114.27	
Chagrin Falls	Cuyahoga	161	97%	113.30	
Delaware Christian	Delaware	29	97%	112.21	New
Pandora-Gilboa	Putnam	44	95%	109.77	New
Spring Valley Academy	Montgomery	21	95%	107.92	New
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy	Summit	146	95%	112.41	
St Vincent St Mary	Summit	166	95%	111.69	
Miller City	Putnam	39	95%	112.24	
Mount Notre Dame	Hamilton	194	95%	109.92	New
Bishop Ready	Franklin	130	95%	110.38	New
St Ursula Academy	Hamilton	171	94%	112.20	
Central Christian	Wayne	34	94%	110.65	New
Bishop Watterson	Franklin	286	94%	113.15	
Upper Arlington	Franklin	484	94%	112.37	
Wellington School	Franklin	50	94%	112.04	
Bexley	Franklin	165	94%	110.74	New
Moeller	Hamilton	195	94%	110.70	
St Ignatius	Cuyahoga	338	94%	111.04	

HIGH SCHOOL	COUNTY	NUMBER OF 10TH GRADE STUDENTS	% OF STUDENTS RECEIVING "PROFICIENT" ON ALL 5 TESTS	PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE "ADJUSTED"	NEW TO LIST
Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy	Hamilton	112	94%	111.61	
Toledo Early College	Lucas	48	94%	110.80	New
Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin	Geauga	153	93%	109.61	
Dublin Jerome	Franklin	272	93%	111.45	
St John's Jesuit	Lucas	189	93%	109.73	
Cincinnati Christians	Butler	57	93%	108.67	New
Bishop Rosecrans	Muskingum	28	93%	110.43	
St Joseph	Sandusky	56	93%	107.57	
Lehman	Shelby	68	93%	110.68	New
Ottawa Hills	Lucas	95	93%	112.89	
St Francis DeSales	Lucas	147	93%	109.80	New
Fenwick	Warren	146	92%	110.15	New
Elyria Catholic	Lorain	157	92%	108.42	New
Columbus Torah Academy	Franklin	13	92%	110.92	
Russia	Shelby	39	92%	109.27	
Indian Hill	Hamilton	168	92%	112.11	New
Norwalk Catholic	Huron	62	92%	111.10	New
Turpin	Hamilton	268	92%	110.67	
Gilmour Academy	Cuyahoga	71	92%	111.17	New
Padua Franciscan	Cuyahoga	246	91%	109.51	
Carroll	Montgomery	232	91%	110.64	
Hoover	Stark	408	91%	110.80	New
Magnificat	Cuyahoga	209	91%	111.17	
Wm V Fisher Catholic	Fairfield	75	91%	110.27	New
Bay	Cuyahoga	213	91%	109.76	New
Hudson	Summit	443	91%	110.34	

Please recognize that 20 new schools made the list this year (as identified in the column on the far right), while 14 schools dropped below the 91% threshold.

In comparison to last year, another field was added to the report. It is the "Performance Index Score (Adjusted)". This field more accurately reveals the top performing schools in Ohio. It is similar to ODE's Performance Index Score, but the ODE version could not be used because it is not calculated for private schools. This version also varies from ODE's because it is only calculated for the 10th graders who took the tests. Creating this field permitted an apples-to-apples comparison with all schools. Click [here](#) to go to the Appendix to view the calculation.

The next step in the analysis was to gather detailed performance data for each of the 65 schools and to sort them in Performance Index Score (Adjusted) order. Last year, this level of detail was included in the Appendix, but based on positive reader feedback, this information is now in the main report.

Since the goal was to identify the best academic schools in Ohio, it was unnecessary to include the percentage of students who achieved the "Below Basic", "Basic", and "Proficient" designations. This table shows just the percentage of students who achieved "Accelerated and Above" and "Advanced".

**TOP PERFORMING SCHOOLS IN EACH OF THE FIVE SUBJECTS ARE SHADED**

**Reading this chart.**

The shaded boxes indicate those schools which achieved the highest levels of performance in each subject area. There are seven to nine schools per category that are shaded. The top schools not only had more "shaded boxes" but they also had high performance in at least three subject areas. I also emphasized those schools which had the highest percentage of students in the "Advanced" column by underlining them. This list is sorted by the Performance Index Score (Adj).

HIGH SCHOOL (Click for Website)	SCHOOL DISTRICT	COUNTY	GENDER	# STU. IN 10TH GRADE	PIS ADJUSTED	% STU. PASSED 5 OF 5	READING		MATHEMATICS		WRITING		SCIENCE		SOCIAL STUDIES		# OF TOP PERFORMING CATAGORIES
							ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	
<a href="#">ST CHARLES PREPARATORY</a>	COLUMBUS DIOCESE	FRANKLIN	MALE	152	<b>116.97</b>	100%	97%	<u>79%</u>	99%	<u>95%</u>	94%	12%	99%	<u>85%</u>	100%	<u>89%</u>	9
<a href="#">URSULINE ACADEMY</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	HAMILTON	FEMALE	179	<b>116.00</b>	99%	97%	78%	96%	84%	98%	21.7%	90%	60%	96%	82%	9
<a href="#">COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS</a>	COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS	FRANKLIN	FEMALE	58	<b>115.97</b>	100%	95%	60%	97%	79%	98%	<u>22.4%</u>	95%	71%	95%	86%	7
<a href="#">SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL</a>	SEVEN HILLS SCHOOL HIGH	HAMILTON	COED	80	<b>115.85</b>	100%	96%	73%	99%	88%	93%	6%	96%	73%	91%	79%	7
<a href="#">HATHAWAY BROWN</a>	HATHAWAY BROWN	CUYAHOGA	FEMALE	79	<b>115.45</b>	99%	100%	70%	99%	93%	98%	21%	88%	52%	91%	67%	6
<a href="#">COLUMBUS ACADEMY</a>	COLUMBUS ACADEMY	FRANKLIN	COED	88	<b>114.72</b>	100%	98%	45%	100%	86%	91%	4%	90%	53%	94%	74%	5
<a href="#">MAUMEE VALLEY COUNTRY DAY</a>	MAUMEE VALLEY COUNTRY DAY	LUCAS	COED	54	<b>114.70</b>	98%	91%	56%	94%	83%	98%	17%	89%	61%	91%	63%	4
<a href="#">SUMMIT COUNTRY DAY</a>	SUMMIT COUNTRY DAY	HAMILTON	COED	77	<b>114.57</b>	100%	94%	54%	94%	82%	95%	13%	84%	55%	91%	67%	2
<a href="#">WALNUT HILLS</a>	CINCINNATI CITY SD	HAMILTON	COED	345	<b>114.51</b>	100%	95%	56%	94%	77%	85%	12%	84%	55%	94%	74%	1
<a href="#">UNIVERSITY</a>	UNIVERSITY	CUYAHOGA	MALE	86	<b>114.50</b>	100%	93%	54%	98%	81%	84%	5%	91%	60%	89%	70%	3
<a href="#">OAKWOOD</a>	OAKWOOD CITY SD	MONTGOMERY	COED	155	<b>114.39</b>	97%	88%	48%	92%	76%	87%	20%	85%	56%	94%	80%	3
<a href="#">LAUREL</a>	LAUREL	CUYAHOGA	FEMALE	67	<b>114.27</b>	97%	97%	69%	88%	69%	93%	15%	88%	48%	91%	75%	2
<a href="#">MIAMI VALLEY</a>	MIAMI VALLEY	MONTGOMERY	COED	35	<b>114.06</b>	97%	100%	63%	89%	69%	91%	11%	89%	51%	86%	66%	2

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							ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	
<a href="#">HAWKEN SCHOOL</a>	HAWKEN SCHOOL	GEAUGA	COED	108	114.06	100%	97%	52%	96%	80%	72%	0%	90%	63%	94%	58%	5
<a href="#">GRANVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY</a>	GRANVILLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	LICKING	COED	18	113.89	100%	94%	44%	89%	72%	89%	0%	83%	67%	89%	67%	1
<a href="#">ST XAVIER</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	HAMILTON	MALE	396	113.52	98%	93%	49%	97%	81%	86%	6%	84%	45%	87%	54%	1
<a href="#">CHAGRIN FALLS</a>	CHAGRIN FALLS EX VILL SD	CUYAHOGA	COED	161	113.30	97%	90%	48%	93%	77%	86%	12%	83%	50%	89%	67%	
<a href="#">ST JOSEPH CENTRAL</a>	STEUBENVILLE DIOCESE	LAWRENCE	COED	15	113.20	100%	80%	47%	87%	73%	87%	0%	93%	60%	87%	47%	2
<a href="#">OUR LADY OF THE ELMS</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	SUMMIT	FEMALE	41	113.17	100%	93%	63%	88%	63%	90%	12%	73%	54%	71%	51%	1
<a href="#">BISHOP WATTERSON</a>	COLUMBUS DIOCESE	FRANKLIN	COED	286	113.15	94%	91%	51%	92%	72%	84%	6%	77%	50%	92%	83%	2
<a href="#">OTTAWA HILLS</a>	OTTAWA HILLS LOCAL SD	LUCAS	COED	95	112.89	93%	84%	46%	94%	80%	84%	15%	77%	47%	85%	68%	-
<a href="#">CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY</a>	CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	SUMMIT	COED	146	112.41	95%	92%	41%	87%	66%	94%	14%	73%	36%	82%	56%	1
<a href="#">UPPER ARLINGTON</a>	UPPER ARLINGTON CITY SD	FRANKLIN	COED	484	112.37	94%	83%	53%	90%	71%	75%	8%	79%	52%	88%	73%	-
<a href="#">WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY</a>	WESTERN RESERVE ACADEMY	SUMMIT	COED	86	112.30	98%	87%	45%	93%	68%	76%	4%	81%	32%	88%	49%	-
<a href="#">MILLER CITY</a>	MILLER CITY-NEW CLEVELAND LOCAL	PUTNAM	COED	39	112.24	95%	82%	53%	95%	87%	71%	0%	79%	45%	90%	76%	2
<a href="#">DELAWARE CHRISTIAN</a>	DELAWARE CHRISTIAN	DELAWARE	COED	29	112.21	97%	86%	62%	79%	55%	83%	0%	86%	48%	72%	52%	1
<a href="#">ST URSULA ACADEMY</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	HAMILTON	FEMALE	171	112.20	94%	93%	57%	77%	54%	95%	14%	74%	38%	83%	59%	1
<a href="#">CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY</a>	CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY	HAMILTON	COED	51	112.14	98%	86%	47%	91%	57%	87%	21.8%	79%	45%	87%	57%	1
<a href="#">WALSH JESUIT</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	SUMMIT	COED	214	112.13	97%	90%	46%	87%	53%	85%	6%	79%	45%	80%	50%	-

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							ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	
<a href="#">INDIAN HILL</a>	INDIAN HILL EX VILL SD	HAMILTON	COED	168	112.11	92%	85%	47%	85%	67%	84%	11%	76%	50%	85%	71%	-
<a href="#">WELLINGTON SCHOOL</a>	WELLINGTON SCHOOL	FRANKLIN	COED	50	112.04	94%	90%	44%	82%	60%	62%	2%	80%	58%	92%	62%	1
<a href="#">ST VINCENT ST MARY</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	SUMMIT	COED	166	111.69	95%	82%	33%	86%	55%	81%	10%	75%	44%	88%	73%	-
<a href="#">CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY</a>	CINCINNATI HILLS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY	HAMILTON	COED	112	111.61	94%	86%	40%	89%	72%	75%	0%	79%	44%	79%	48%	-
<a href="#">DUBLIN JEROME</a>	DUBLIN CITY SD	FRANKLIN	COED	272	111.45	93%	83%	38%	89%	63%	74%	6%	78%	41%	86%	65%	-
<a href="#">MAGNIFICAT</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	CUYAHOGA	FEMALE	209	111.17	91%	89%	46%	86%	55%	90%	8%	72%	37%	79%	48%	-
<a href="#">GILMOUR ACADEMY</a>	GILMOUR ACADEMY	CUYAHOGA	COED	71	111.17	92%	86%	49%	84%	64%	84%	21%	71%	37%	71%	33%	1
<a href="#">NORWALK CATHOLIC</a>	TOLEDO DIOCESE	HURON	COED	62	111.10	92%	82%	44%	79%	56%	92%	5%	68%	40%	79%	48%	-
<a href="#">ST IGNATIUS</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	CUYAHOGA	MALE	338	111.04	94%	83%	37%	82%	54%	77%	2%	74%	40%	86%	58%	-
<a href="#">COLUMBUS TORAH ACADEMY</a>	COLUMBUS TORAH ACADEMY	FRANKLIN	COED	13	110.92	92%	92%	62%	54%	38%	77%	15%	69%	38%	69%	62%	1
<a href="#">TOLEDO EARLY</a>	TOLEDO CITY SD	LUCAS	COED	48	110.80	94%	76%	32%	92%	68%	68%	4%	56%	36%	68%	56%	-
<a href="#">HOOVER</a>	NORTH CANTON CITY SD	STARK	COED	408	110.80	91%	80%	40%	84%	65%	79%	8%	74%	48%	86%	67%	-
<a href="#">BEXLEY</a>	BEXLEY CITY SD	FRANKLIN	COED	165	110.74	94%	82%	37%	78%	54%	73%	14%	77%	51%	84%	65%	-
<a href="#">MOELLER</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	HAMILTON	MALE	195	110.70	94%	72%	30%	83%	55%	71%	5%	74%	45%	84%	51%	-
<a href="#">LEHMAN</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	SHELBY	COED	68	110.68	93%	87%	47%	84%	53%	75%	1%	75%	44%	65%	37%	-
<a href="#">TURPIN</a>	FOREST HILLS LOCAL SD	HAMILTON	COED	268	110.67	92%	77%	37%	86%	70%	82%	12%	77%	44%	80%	57%	-

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							ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	
<a href="#">CENTRAL CHRISTIAN</a>	CENTRAL CHRISTIAN	WAYNE	COED	34	110.65	94%	79%	44%	85%	53%	79%	3%	68%	47%	65%	44%	-
<a href="#">CARROLL</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	MONTGOMERY	COED	232	110.64	91%	78%	33%	82%	60%	80%	7%	80%	51%	79%	55%	-
<a href="#">BISHOP ROSECRANS</a>	COLUMBUS DIOCESE	MUSKINGUM	COED	28	110.43	93%	86%	32%	82%	61%	75%	4%	79%	32%	61%	39%	-
<a href="#">BISHOP READY</a>	COLUMBUS DIOCESE	FRANKLIN	COED	130	110.38	95%	78%	36%	75%	56%	62%	1%	68%	38%	80%	53%	-
<a href="#">HUDSON</a>	HUDSON CITY SD	SUMMIT	COED	443	110.34	91%	82%	38%	87%	67%	69%	5%	73%	43%	78%	53%	-
<a href="#">WM V FISHER CATHOLIC</a>	COLUMBUS DIOCESE	FAIRFIELD	COED	75	110.27	91%	87%	38%	76%	61%	72%	7%	81%	51%	80%	49%	-
<a href="#">WARREN CHRISTIAN</a>	WARREN CHRISTIAN HIGH	TRUMBULL	COED	11	110.18	100%	73%	18%	91%	64%	91%	0%	73%	18%	45%	36%	-
<a href="#">FENWICK</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	WARREN	COED	146	110.15	92%	84%	37%	84%	60%	72%	2%	71%	47%	68%	46%	-
<a href="#">MOUNT NOTRE DAME</a>	CINCINNATI ARCHDIOCESE	HAMILTON	FEMALE	194	109.92	95%	81%	37%	77%	48%	89%	11%	61%	30%	65%	39%	-
<a href="#">ST FRANCIS DESALES</a>	TOLEDO DIOCESE	LUCAS	MALE	147	109.80	93%	75%	27%	86%	63%	72%	4%	71%	39%	65%	37%	-
<a href="#">PANDORA-GILBOA</a>	PANDORA-GILBOA LOCAL SD	PUTNAM	COED	44	109.77	95%	85%	29%	85%	67%	65%	7%	69%	49%	69%	31%	-
<a href="#">BAY</a>	BAY VILLAGE CITY SD	CUYAHOGA	COED	213	109.76	91%	80%	34%	83%	55%	76%	9%	72%	45%	74%	53%	-
<a href="#">ST JOHN'S JESUIT</a>	TOLEDO DIOCESE	LUCAS	MALE	189	109.73	93%	72%	25%	86%	59%	59%	2%	67%	38%	76%	41%	-
<a href="#">NOTRE DAME-CATHEDRAL LATIN</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	GEAUGA	COED	153	109.61	93%	84%	37%	71%	39%	80%	6%	67%	39%	61%	33%	-
<a href="#">PADUA FRANCISCAN</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	CUYAHOGA	COED	246	109.51	91%	80%	27%	68%	38%	82%	3%	65%	34%	79%	55%	-
<a href="#">RUSSIA</a>	RUSSIA LOCAL SD	SHELBY	COED	39	109.27	92%	77%	39%	85%	67%	85%	3%	80%	49%	74%	46%	-

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							ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	ACCEL & ABOVE	ADV	
<a href="#">CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN</a>	CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN	BUTLER	COED	57	108.67	93%	81%	30%	79%	53%	47%	2%	63%	28%	67%	32%	-
<a href="#">ELYRIA CATHOLICS</a>	CLEVELAND CATHOLIC DIOCESE	LORAIN	COED	157	108.42	92%	84%	31%	75%	44%	67%	1%	59%	31%	61%	28%	-
<a href="#">SPRING VALLEY ACADEMY</a>	SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST OH CONF	MONTGOMERY	COED	21	107.92	95%	86%	29%	86%	55%	77%	0%	55%	32%	50%	14%	-
<a href="#">ST JOSEPH</a>	TOLEDO DIOCESE	SANDUSKY	COED	56	107.57	93%	66%	18%	61%	34%	75%	2%	61%	30%	54%	27%	-
PERFORMANCE HIGHER THAN THE FOLLOWING %							96%	62%	96%	82%	93%	15%	90%	60%	92%	75%	5
NUMBER OF SCHOOLS PERFORMING EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN ABOVE %							8	8	8	8	8	8	8	9	9	7	7

## My List of State Academic Champions

The intent was to name five schools as academic champions but an additional school was added based on a natural break of how the schools appeared in the table. Sorted in PIS (Adjusted) order, the state academic champions for this year are:

- St. Charles Preparatory, Columbus, Franklin County
- Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, Hamilton County
- Columbus School for Girls, Columbus, Franklin County
- Seven Hills, Cincinnati, Hamilton County
- Hathaway Brown, Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
- Columbus Academy, Columbus, Franklin County

Please congratulate these outstanding schools.

## Top Academic Ohio Counties

The top five Ohio counties in academics based on their performance in scoring the highest proficiency percentage on all five tests are listed below.

TOP FIVE COUNTIES	5 OF 5 PROFICIENCY AVERAGE OF ALL SCHOOLS IN COUNTY	TOP SCHOOL IN COUNTY	% PASSING ALL FIVE TESTS
Putnam	84%	Pandora-Gilboa	95%
Geauga	82%	Hawken	100%
Delaware	82%	Delaware Christian	97%
Mercer	81%	Marion High	89%
Shelby	78%	Lehman	93%

## Editorial

The initial plan was to "cut and paste" the editorial from last year because many of the points are still relevant. Please consider reading last year's report which is available on the web site. There are other items to consider this year and they are as follows:

## Using the ACT rather than the Ohio Graduation Test

**Change** can be good and the initial thought was that it was logical to replace the OGT with the ACT. After additional consideration, it makes less sense. The OGT is the most reliable method

of insuring that our graduates have met the requirements set by the State of Ohio in order to **deserve** an Ohio diploma.

The ACT assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work.<sup>1</sup> **First things first** -- taxpayers are providing funding for a high school education -- not a college degree. Let us insure that the first goal -- obtaining a legitimate high school degree -- is achieved before moving onto the next step. The proposed process is akin to requiring all college students to take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) to determine if they are ready for medical school even if they are not interested in going to medical school. To my knowledge, the State of Ohio will not require a specific score on the ACT in order to graduate as it does for the OGT. That is another major concern.

Those students who perform at an **adequate level** on the OGT should be encouraged to take the ACT test (and if necessary, funding should be provided for them to do so). If a student scores at a "Below Basic" or "Basic" levels on the OGT, it is a waste of time and money to require this student to take the ACT.

Reviewing **trends** is a better method of evaluating performance. It is critical that going forward that schools and taxpayers have the ability to compare current with past performance. If the ACT is administered rather than the OGT, it is unknown how apples-to-apples comparisons will be performed with previous years. It is also unknown if teachers will be given adequate "actionable" data so that they know which areas of instruction need more attention.

There is also concern that this will be an opportunity for the ODE to "**dumb-down**" the test requirements in order to make it easier for students to graduate and to possibly make it easier for educators to receive merit pay. Students, teachers, parents, and communities have worked too hard over these last few years to reduce expectations now. It is also clear from the results of the great schools in this report that students can master this material very effectively.

Personally, I would suggest that the ODE **continue with the OGT** while they test the ACT on a variety of schools.

### **Additional Analysis**

The big take-a-way received from last year's report via feedback from superintendents was that it is more enlightening to **compare similar schools**. Please consider reading the "League Academic Performance" reports at [GerberAnalytics.com](http://GerberAnalytics.com) for this information on central Ohio schools.

Perhaps at some point, communities will be engaged in academic performance as much as they are with their football teams' win-loss records.

## To Repeat a Portion of Last Year's Report. . .

Does this document include any mistakes? Hopefully not, data was carefully entered and the numbers were double checked, but it is possible. Please contact me with any significant discrepancies.

Will this type of ranking put more pressure on schools to do well? It might if the State of Ohio would endorse and publish the results of this type of friendly competition. It would encourage all schools and their students to do better as they strive to be one of the best schools. However, I do not see this as applying pressure to *just* the high schools. I am not in the education business but it is my guess that you cannot have excellent performance on this 10<sup>th</sup> Grade test without the following:

- Hard-working students who are willing to spend multiple hours on homework every night and who are challenging and competing against their fellow classmates. (And remember, unlike sporting events, every student in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade participates and every student matters.)
- Caring parents who are giving their children an opportunity to work on their assignments and making the sacrifices to help their children by transporting them to better schools outside of their neighborhood, by paying tuition or higher property taxes (or both) to allow their children to go to a better school; and/or by moving to a community that places a greater importance on education
- Outstanding teachers who teach well and who can motivate their students
- Administrations who set high expectations for the students, teachers, and parents
- Outstanding elementary and middle school teachers who have established a solid foundation for the students
- Active volunteers who help with those activities that the teacher / administrative staff do not have the expertise and/or time to perform
- Supporting communities that place a high value on education and by ensuring that there is a tradition of academic excellence

Will this type of ranking force schools to spend more time emphasizing the process of test taking? Some schools spend an inordinate amount of time teaching their students to take the OGT. The above schools also prepare for the OGT, but it is my guess that they cover the fundamentals so thoroughly that the OGT is a minor distraction for them – not a major emphasis. There are also some schools that appear to have substantially better approaches than others to teach some subjects, such as Hathaway Brown with Mathematics, Columbus School for Girls with Writing, and St. Charles with Science. Not to put these schools or the other top schools on the spot but perhaps they would be willing to share some of their best practices with other schools?

Please note that I do these types of analyses as a hobby. I am not being compensated for my work (in any manner). (I am a long-term, stock market investor.) You are free to forward this report to anyone you wish but please give me proper attribution if you use any of my material.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.act.org/aap/>

## PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE (ADJUSTED)

Note that the Performance Index Score (Adjusted) is different from what you may have seen on the Ohio Department of Education's Report Card. The calculation in this document is **only** for the **10th grade students**. It also does not include any students who did not take the test. It was calculated as follows:

Ada High School

Subject	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Accelerated	Advanced	
Mathematics	9.4%	9.4%	24.5%	20.8%	35.8%	
Reading	3.8%	5.7%	43.4%	35.8%	11.3%	
Science	3.8%	18.9%	26.4%	22.6%	28.3%	
Social Studies	15.1%	9.4%	24.5%	22.6%	28.3%	
Writing	5.7%	5.7%	39.6%	47.2%	1.9%	
Total of Above	37.7%	49.1%	158.5%	149.1%	105.7%	
Average of 5	7.5%	9.8%	31.7%	29.8%	21.1%	
Factor	0.3	0.6	1	1.1	1.2	
						Summation
Average * Factor	2.3	5.9	31.7	32.8	25.4	<b>98</b>

It was necessary to create this 10th grade only version of a Performance Index Score for a better "apples to apples" comparison of all schools (both private and public).

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