



Dear Copley-Fairlawn Families and Community Members,

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) recently released 2015-2016 School Report Cards which are issued to provide a snapshot of how school districts are performing throughout the State of Ohio. In Copley-Fairlawn, we have grown accustomed to earning the highest marks achievable on our local report card. However, some of our current scores are concerning to all of us, and we are taking immediate steps to address issues raised in the ODE Report Card.

As you may be aware, Ohio recently made changes to the way it measures and rates the performance of schools and districts. The goal was to make these assessments easier to understand and more descriptive – however, the new changes have generated considerable controversy in school districts across the state.

In previous years, Report Cards were mostly based on how well students performed on state assessments. Now, although assessments are still a major part of school and district grades, the current ODE Report Card is the first to feature A-F grades in six broad categories:

- **Achievement:** How well are students doing against national and state standards of success?
- **Gap Closing:** Are students in all demographic groups making gains in reading and math?
- **K-3 Literacy:** Are students in kindergarten through third grade reading at or above grade level?
- **Progress:** Are students of all abilities growing academically?
- **Graduation Rate:** Are all students graduating on time?
- **Prepared for Success:** Are students ready for college and careers?

Copley-Fairlawn’s grades for the 2015-16 ODE School Report Card are:

Achievement	B
Gap Closing	C
K-3 Literacy	D
Progress	D
Graduation Rate	A
Prepared for Success	C

As a school district, we have very high expectations. We know our community shares these high expectations. But the drop in our results is perplexing because we know that we have the same great students and the same great educators we had last year when we received an excellent report card.

The local news media has reported a general drop in the scores of a majority of school districts across Ohio. A.J. Wagner, a State Board of Education member, said: "The State report cards are a disaster. Not because of poor teaching, not because of poor administrators, not because of poor students, but because of poor test composition, poor expectations, poor measurement, poor supports, poor financing and poor policy making."

Despite the controversy and questions of validity surrounding the state's changes to the Report Card, we take our scores very seriously. We have spent considerable time analyzing this Report Card to determine reasons for our drop in scores. We will use the information in this Report Card to ensure that all our students reach their full potential, and to make us an even stronger district. We always challenge our students to rise in the face of adversity, and that is what we will do.

Our professional staff continues to take great pride in our performance. We continue to be very proud of the experiences we provide to our students. Follow this link to our "[Quality Profile](#)" which reflects many of the successes we are experiencing as a result of the dedication of our staff and students, and your strong support.

Our priority is always our students' success. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian Poe  
Superintendent  
Copley-Fairlawn City School District