

Reforming Ohio's Education System for the 21st Century

"It is absolutely clear to me that as we commit to preparing Ohio's children for success in college, for success in the workplace, and for success in life, that we must build our education system anew."

-Governor Strickland's 2009 State of the State Address

21st Century Learning Environments

How we teach and what we teach will be designed to prepare Ohio students to thrive in the 21st Century. The Governor's plan will:

- Require students to show mastery of core subjects
- Include in our teaching the skills business leaders look for in people they hire; creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem solving.
- Emphasize life & career readiness by adding such a unit to the curriculum
- Create a strong link between our preschool system, K-12 system and high education system, resulting in a continuum of learning.
- Create one comprehensive early care and education system, focused on the whole child, at the Department of Education (ODE)
- Update the funding levels for special education
- Help students learn and teachers teach by encouraging collaboration among all school personnel in educating students, helping students behave constructively, coaching and mentoring teachers and involving families and community members in students' education.
- Emphasize wellness by placing a RN in each district and nurse wellness coordinator (LPN) in each school building

Expand Learning Opportunities

The learning experience will be built around the individual student. New opportunities will be developed to build upon the needs of each student. The Governor's plan will:

- Make resources available statewide for universal all day kindergarten
- Phase in 20 additional learning days to the learning year
- Create additional non-academic learning opportunities after the learning day ends
- Create district wide Family and Community Engagement Teams, with at least one family and community coordinator per school
- Encourage the creation of school district sponsored charter schools that celebrate creativity and innovation
- Develop a center for Creativity and Innovation at the Department of Education, and conduct research to inform educators of cutting edge techniques and ideas.
- Celebrate student's academic talents with an Ohio Academic Olympics

High Quality Educators

There is nothing more consequential to the schools than providing quality teachers to our students. We will revolutionize teacher training and recognize the development of a teacher's skills and accomplishments. The Governor's plan will:

- Develop an educator residency program to support new educators
- Create a career ladder with graduated teacher license levels recognizing experience and excellence, including: Resident Educator, Professional Educator, Senior Professional Educator, and Lead Professional Educator
- Align K-12 needs with educator preparation and professional development in our colleges of education
- Create Teach Ohio, to encourage Ohioans of all ages and walks of life to become educators
- Ensure that students benefit from
- Create standards for superintendents, treasurers and school business officials
- Use STEM schools for technical training of non-STEM school teachers

- Implement an Ohio Instructional Quality Index, which will, drive resources for teachers to the students that need it most.

Measure Ohio Students Against the World

Ohio schools must prepare students to think and compete globally through effective assessments and teaching. Our goal in our teaching and in our testing is nothing short of national and international leadership. The Governor's plan will:

- Replace the OGT with the ACT Plus. All students will now have a four part composite assessment including the ACT, end of course exams, a service learning project and a senior thesis project
- Provide the ACT exam to all students without charge
- Revise the assessments for grades 3-8 to align with the information and skills taught in core subjects and the updated 21st Century curriculum

Resource Accountability

Our schools must be efficient with an unprecedented level of accountability and transparency. Ohio's taxpayers will know how schools are operated and resources are spent. The Governor's plan will:

- Require annual spending plans for both districts and buildings
- Mandate performance audits of districts every 5 years
- Enforce consequences for failure to comply with accountability provisions
- Establish school site visits by ODE every 5 years
- Create yearly fiscal and operational report card for all schools
- Hold charter schools to the same high levels of accountability that the public expects from traditional public schools

Funding to Support 21st Century Reforms

To implement the Ohio Evidence Based Model, Ohio students will need educators, support staff, materials, and special programs designed to support a 21st Century system of education. By defining student needs, we have defined the resources required to meet those needs. The Governor's plan will:

- Provide Comprehensive funding to achieve 21st century academic reforms
- Support the unique needs of each student
- Implement the Ohio Evidence Based Model
- Eliminate "charge off phantom revenue" by lowering the state charge off to 20-mills
- Reduce "reappraisal phantom revenue" by providing districts a tool –conversion levies—to reach the 20-mill floor
- Implement a gain cap and a guarantee to help districts transition to the new system

"Taking these steps, we will graduate Ohioans ready to succeed in the modern economy and in modern life. Future generations will look back gratefully and say that when we came together on education, we claimed this new century for Ohio."

-Governor Strickland's 2009 State of the State Address