

Ohio | Conversation on Education

TOOL KIT FOR EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Reforming Ohio's Schools for a Stronger Economy

The need for comprehensive reform of Ohio's education system:

Improving our schools is critical to improving our economy. By investing in comprehensive education reform, we will prepare our children for success in the 21st century and strengthen Ohio's long-term economic vitality.

CLASSROOM SUCCESS

Current System

21st Century Education System, as outlined in House Bill 1

Limited classroom learning time compared to successful schools

Expands classroom learning by lengthening the school year and establishing all-day kindergarten

No direct funding for technology in the classroom

Utilizes technology to provide more course options through the internet and video conferencing

Too many statewide tests with standards set too low

Focused statewide testing – replacing the Ohio Graduation Test with the ACT to promote college advancement

EVIDENCE-BASED FUNDING

Current System

21st Century Education System

Bureaucratic patchwork of funding, not based on classroom success

Funding based on evidence of proven successes – smaller classes, better teachers, more learning time

Provides funding based on available state money

Directs resources to schools with the greatest educational challenges

Relies heavily on local property tax

Reduces reliance on local property tax and the need for frequent voter-approved levies

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY & IMPROVED TEACHER QUALITY

Current System

21st Century Education System

No clear and accessible accounting of school expenses

Creates fiscal report cards for school districts to ensure transparency and accountability

No academic reforms required of failing school districts

Requires failing districts to implement reforms based on proven methods of success

Limited teacher training and funding for professional development

Develops rigorous teacher training through a residency program and enhances ongoing professional development

Outdated licensing standards and disciplinary measures

Strengthens licensing standards for principals and disciplinary guidelines for teachers

Comprehensive Education Reform that Makes Sense for...

PARENTS AND CITIZENS

- Lowers reliance on property taxes, increases state support for education, reduces the need for local school levies
- Schools that teach the skills needed in the 21st Century economy by using technology in the classroom and replacing outdated testing with the ACT college prep exam
- Family and community engagement to help the entire community support education
- Meeting world-wide standards for access to education through all-day kindergarten and a longer school year

TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

- Provides the tools to succeed with new resources and standards for professional development
- Gives high-performing schools the flexibility to pursue innovative approaches in the classroom
- Support for technology, instructional materials and extracurricular activities to enhance classroom learning
- Opportunities for advancement through a new career ladder, beginning with a teacher residency program
- Focus on sharing success across districts through the Center for Creativity and Innovation

BUSINESS LEADERS AND EMPLOYERS

- Lays the foundation for Ohio's economic growth in advanced technologies and knowledge-based industries through a well-educated workforce
- Prepares students for the 21st century job market through project-based learning, interdisciplinary classes and teaching critical thinking skills
- Endorsed by the Ohio Business Roundtable – a partnership of Ohio's major businesses who represent all sectors of the economy

LOCAL LEADERS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS

- A clear and effective school funding system based on research and best practices
- Transparency and accountability for school districts through a fiscal report card and new reporting requirements
- Strategies to help every student succeed through tutoring, summer school, and the Educational Challenge Factor used to drive resources to the districts in greatest need
- Broad coalition of support, including the Ohio Business Roundtable, Ohio School Board Association, Ohio Association of School Business Officials, Ohio Association of Public School Employees, Ohio Coalition of Equity and Adequacy for School Funding, Coalition for Rural and Appalachian Schools, The Ohio 8 Coalition (Ohio's major urban districts)

Check www.ConversationOnEducation.org for updated endorsements

Getting Involved

LEARN MORE

- Read the information in this tool kit
- Stay updated with news reports about Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan
- Visit www.ConversationOnEducation.org for more in-depth information and analysis

REACH OUT

- Talk with your friends about the education reform plan and why it cannot wait another 18 years
- Find out what your board of education and elected officials are doing to support education reform

SPEAK OUT

- Write your **Ohio State Senator** and **members on the Senate Finance and Education Committees** and tell him or her how important it is to pass Ohio's Comprehensive Education Reform Plan. (Included below are ideas for a letter)
- Write letters to your local newspaper to raise public awareness and build support for this important reform

Letters to State Senators & Letters to the Editor

Letters are more compelling if they include **personal stories** on why education reform is critical for Ohio's future and successfully preparing our students for a global economy.

The stories could focus on a certain aspect of the plan that is important to the individual writing, such as: 21st century classrooms, the importance of new assessments through the ACT-Plus, transformational changes in teacher training, and/or family and community engagement.

MAIN POINTS TO INCLUDE:

- If we want Ohio to have a strong economy, we must start preparing Ohio students now for the jobs of the future by modernizing our education system.
- To do this, we must fund what research tells us matters most to student success – better teachers, better tests, more hands-on learning and technology so students learn the skills that cutting-edge businesses look for in the people they hire. We will support these innovative reforms, while reducing the property tax burden on local taxpayers.
- Our plan requires strict accountability in school spending, with flexibility for schools that are already performing well, to make sure that every Ohio child is receiving a modern education.

"We need to educate our way to a better economy. The nation that out-teaches us today will out-compete us tomorrow."- U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

For more information, visit www.ConversationOnEducation.org