

Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century: A Vision for Transforming PK-12 Education in Ohio

Our Vision

The State Board of Education's vision is for all Ohio students to graduate from the PK-12 education system with the knowledge, skills and behaviors necessary to successfully continue their education and/or be workforce ready and successfully participate in the global economy as productive citizens. Ultimately, **all students will graduate well prepared for success.**

Ohio has achieved successes over the past decade. Performance of the elementary and secondary education system has moved from the middle compared to other states to ranking in the top 10 of all states. Ohio's system of standards, assessments and accountability is considered among the best in the nation, and the state's success with defining high quality teacher standards and helping all teachers succeed is recognized as outstanding. Further, the state's data collection and analysis tools provide a rich source of information that drives continuous improvement at the local level.

However, Ohio must forge quickly ahead beyond these successes to **achieve this vision by 2018**. Ohio's education system must be flexible and adaptable enough to anticipate and respond to a rapidly changing world. The State Board of Education charged its Subcommittee on Education in the Global Economy with identifying the essential skills and knowledge needed by Ohio's graduates now and in the future for the state and citizens to enjoy economic prosperity. The subcommittee's research indicates that students must master modern skills and competencies, including mastery of rigorous academic content, critical thinking skills, good work skills and habits, and global awareness.¹

Achieving the vision requires a commitment to every student.

Our Objectives

To graduate all students well prepared for success, the State Board will focus on the following objectives:

1. Teaching 21st century knowledge and skills for real-world success;
2. Effectively delivering support for a high quality education;
3. Providing sufficient resources which are efficiently managed;
4. Developing a statewide outreach and communication strategy on board policy and the importance of education in the 21st century.

¹ See Appendix A for the complete top 10 list of the findings of the Board's Subcommittee on Education in the Global Economy.

Our Strategies

1. Teaching 21st Century Knowledge and Skills for Real-World Success

To ensure that the education experience teaches 21st century knowledge and skills for real-world success, the State Board of Education will do the following:

- ❖ ***Develop and implement world-class standards.*** Ohio will review and revise the PK-12 academic content standards and benchmark them to international best-in-class based on the emerging needs for human talent for sustained economic growth in Ohio.
- ❖ ***Accelerate student-centered curriculum reform including 21st century knowledge, skills and behaviors.*** Ohio's content standards and model curricula will be rigorous, relevant to students and economic needs, and ensure positive relationships.
- ❖ ***Develop and implement a new generation of assessments.*** Ohio will develop a new system of student assessments that employs multiple measures and includes more than traditional paper-and-pencil assessments, accompanied by appropriate revisions to Ohio's accountability system.
- ❖ ***Provide greater access to post-secondary education opportunities.*** Ohio's education system will provide greater access to programs that give students preparation for and experience in post-secondary content and settings.

2. Effectively Delivering Support for a High Quality Education

To ensure the effective delivery of support for a high quality education to all students, the State Board of Education will do the following:

- ❖ ***Promote and measure positive school culture and family involvement.*** Ohio will develop and model the use of tools to analyze school culture and family involvement, and provide technical assistance to support improvements.
- ❖ ***Implement a uniform system of evaluation and career advancement for educators.*** Ohio will create multiple pathways for career advancement (including career lattices) for PK-12 educators (teachers, principals, superintendents and treasurers), provide appropriate incentives to recruit and retain educators and raise the standards for entering the education profession in Ohio.
- ❖ ***Provide focused, high quality professional development for educators.*** Ohio will develop polices to ensure that PK-12 educators (teachers, principals, superintendents, treasurers and local school board members) are provided professional development opportunities aligned with state educator standards and tied to individual needs.
- ❖ ***Support and build capacity for personalized and expanded student learning.*** Ohio will support the development and implementation of personalized learning for all students, starting with expanding the written education plans (WEPs) for

gifted students and the Individualized Academic and Career planning tool to engage students in their own learning and career planning.

- ❖ ***Bring together a continuum of support services for students.*** Ohio will bring together community, social and law enforcement services to meet student needs and develop the “whole” student.
- ❖ ***Establish a state and regional system of technical assistance for schools that builds capacity for substantially improving student achievement.*** Ohio will complete the implementation of the Ohio Improvement Process, leveraging the state’s technical assistance infrastructure, especially regional educational service providers.
- ❖ ***Drive superior use of technology and other learning tools into every Ohio school for the primary purpose of improving student learning and performance.*** An adequate technology infrastructure must be in place in every Ohio school, used to deliver education, including distance learning, where the need is the greatest; to facilitate instruction; and to deliver, score and measure Ohio’s new system of student assessments.
- ❖ ***Identify and develop model innovative schools and demonstration projects based on research.*** Ohio will continue to research what works in education settings and share those ideas across the state.

3. Providing Sufficient Resources which are Efficiently Managed

To ensure that schools have sufficient resources which are efficiently managed, the State Board of Education will do the following:

- ❖ ***Modernize the PK-12 funding system.*** The State Board will recommend a funding system that is predictable in its growth and stable over time, accommodating the differing resource levels to educate students with differing needs and ensuring that the funding follows students based on those needs.
- ❖ ***Integrate funding for early childhood education into the PK-12 funding system.*** Ohio will make a greater financial investment in partnership with other local community resources to expand access to high quality early childhood educational opportunities.
- ❖ ***Implement an enhanced PK-12 fiscal management and accountability system.*** Ohio will implement a new PK-12 fiscal management system to ensure that all resources are carefully and consciously allocated and all funds are used to achieve the best results.

4. Developing a Statewide Outreach and Communication Strategy on Board Policy and the Importance of Education in the 21st Century

To ensure that students, families and communities understand and support the need for every student to receive a high quality education, the State Board of Education will do the following:

- ❖ ***Improve communication with stakeholders and the general public.*** The State Board will develop a strategy and plan for effectively engaging and communicating with education stakeholders, educators, and the public regarding the critical role education plays in Ohio and why the challenges of the 21st century demand new and more effective ways of educating students.

Our Measures of Success

The following key indicators will assist in measuring success:

- Graduation rate
- Dropout rate
- Percent of graduates completing the Ohio Core Curriculum requirements
- Percent of students proficient and above on Ohio's various assessments
- Percent of graduates leaving PK-12 system with college credits
- Percent of graduates leaving PK-12 system with industry certificates
- Percent of students taking SAT/ACT and average score of Ohio students on those exams
- Percent of students requiring remediation in college
- Percent of students earning business/industry credentials
- Percent of career technical students placed in professions

The PK-12 system of education in Ohio is the feeder system for Ohio's workforce and higher education system. The State Board of Education will cooperate with the Chancellor and the Ohio Board of Regents in fulfilling the PK-12 system's role in the ***Strategic Plan for Higher Education*** and expects to be held accountable for doing its part to support the plan's goals.

Ohio's Transformed System of Education

Education in Ohio will be different once these objectives and strategies are achieved. Envision a learning environment in which instruction is **international best-in-class**, **students apply what they learn across disciplines to solve problems**, **multiple assessments** measure learning and also guide instruction, and **achievement gaps are eliminated**.

Every classroom in Ohio will have **a teacher who is both highly qualified and highly effective**. Ohio's "best and brightest" will be recruited to be teachers.

In addition to an effective teacher, **all students will receive the supports they need** – academic and non-academic – to be successful. Instruction will include **personalized learning** based on individual students' needs, which could include additional time and individualized instruction. Each school's culture will create the **conditions that promote excellent teaching and learning**, bringing together parents, communities and social services in the process.

Schools will be supported by a **high quality state and regional system of technical assistance** that will help identify underperformance, recognize the causes of the

underperformance and support the successful implementation of improvement strategies. The Ohio Department of Education and the State Board of Education will be focused on enhancing student success by supporting, advocating for, and communicating with districts and schools.

Finally, a school funding system will support the redesigned PK-12 system described above, **funding students based on their diverse needs**, with a fiscal system **improving resource allocation and management** and **linking resources to results**.

Ohio's transformed education system will educate students to world-class academic standards and develop skill areas that promote creativity and innovation, essential to Ohio's global economic competitiveness.

APPENDIX A

Knowledge, Skills, Attitudes and Behaviors Top Ten List

The State Board's Subcommittee on Education in the Global Economy sought to identify the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors needed by students for them to be successful in higher education and the workforce. The Subcommittee's findings were summarized and compiled in a list of the 10 most frequently cited items. Research included a literature review, interviews of Ohio business and governmental leaders, an online survey and State Board discussions.

1. Critical thinking, problem-solving skills and applied knowledge for practical results
2. Mastery of rigorous academic content, especially in literacy, mathematics and information technologies
3. Innovative and creative thinking, including entrepreneurial skills
4. Communication skills, both oral and written
5. Team learning and work, relationship building and interpersonal social skills
6. Alignment of education with the needs of economic development, including better communications and cooperation between educators and business people
7. Personal responsibility, including good work habits, personal ethics, knowing how to be flexible and continue learning, and financial literacy
8. Global awareness, languages and understanding other cultures (including history, economics and geography)
9. Communications and better interfaces between K-12 public education and post-secondary/higher education to make high school graduates better prepared for the next stages of their education and lives
10. Teacher education, preparation and professional development to support content mastery and skill development, including applied learning (or problem-based learning) across disciplines in a global context