

Mike DeWine, Governor
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear Ohio Parents, Families, Caregivers, Educators and Community Partners:

Ohio's strategic plan for education, *Each Child, Our Future*, is the foundational guide for the work of the Ohio Department of Education and State Board of Education. Its language and shared vision shape our daily actions and inform the ways we strive to serve Ohio's education community. The mission is bold, yet unifying and, together, we share a common vision for our children — *that they are challenged to discover and learn, prepared to pursue a fulfilling post-high school path and empowered to become resilient, lifelong learners who contribute to society.*

Among the strategies in *Each Child, Our Future* is Strategy 7, which reads, "Work together with parents, caregivers and community partners to help schools meet the needs of the **whole child**." This strategy emerged from a deep recognition that, "Unless the whole child is considered and supported, the conditions for learning are less than optimal."

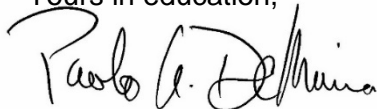
In furtherance of Strategy 7, I am pleased to announce the release of Ohio's **Whole Child Framework**. Carefully crafted over a 10-month period by Ohio educators, counselors and content experts in mental and behavioral health, family engagement, social-emotional learning, nutrition and services for vulnerable youth, the framework provides a blueprint to address the needs most central to a child's holistic development.

A whole child approach to education is grounded in research and ensures students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Ohio's 1.7 million students arrive to school each day with the opportunity to achieve their personal goals, pursue their passions and aspirations, gain new and diverse perspectives, discover new knowledge and understanding, and interact with peers and caring adults. To ensure students are set up for success and ready to effectively engage in learning, their basic needs — including access to nutritious food, health care services and a safe, warm environment — must first be met.

In *Each Child, Our Future*, a core principle is the important role of partnerships and how they transform the education experience. The Department recognizes that parents, families and caregivers are a child's first teacher and the education community's most trusted partners. The entire community, including local nonprofits, businesses, faith-based organizations and other service providers surround the framework to represent the various assets that impact all our children, families and schools. Educating students is everyone's business. Ohio's *Whole Child Framework* gives school leaders, educators and community partners a collaborative model to deliver wraparound services and supports that reach all students and include processes that enhance coordination of existing policy and practice, cultural competency, equity and inclusion and continuous improvement.

I am excited and hopeful about the impact the *Whole Child Framework* will have on Ohio's students. The Department is committed to partnering with schools and districts that are interested in using the framework to guide policy and practice to advance their goals and desired outcomes. We believe our state's collective focus on the *whole child* will enable *each child* greater access to health, safety, security and prosperity through deep learning and personal growth. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours in education,



Paolo DeMaria
Superintendent of Public Instruction