



TRANSFORMING OHIO FOR GROWTH

Better Learning. Better Training. Better Future.

HB 525: The Cleveland Plan

A STRUGGLING SCHOOL DISTRICT UNABLE TO HELP CHILDREN

Since 1996 the Cleveland Metropolitan School District has lost 46 percent of its student populationⁱ. The district ranks 608 out of 611 statewide in academic performance, and 31,000 of its 42,000 students are educated in schools on *academic watch* or *academic emergency*. With falling enrollment and inadequate management tools, the District's administrators have struggled to manage growing expenses, leading to a \$60 million budget shortfall. Without question, Cleveland's schools are in trouble. Helping the district get back on its feet is essential to preparing Cleveland's children for a competitive global economy. Ohio simply can't afford to have its second largest school district stuck in a hopeless situation.

A UNIFIED EFFORT TO SAVE CLEVELAND

Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson is committed to improving Cleveland's schools and, with the help of Gov. John Kasich, the General Assembly, the Cleveland teacher's union, and the Cleveland business community, crafted a plan to improve standards, reward, retain and recruit high-quality educators, and increase school autonomy and accountability.

PUTTING KIDS FIRST

Children deserve to be taught by dedicated, well-trained, and high-performing teachers. The Cleveland Plan introduces updated, flexible employment policies to ensure every student is taught by a great teacher, and a salary schedule that rewards high-performing teachers and teachers in high-demand fields. While experience can be a key characteristic of a quality teacher, it's more important to ensure proven educators are in Cleveland classrooms. Seniority will still be part of the equation, but well-rounded evaluations that consider all aspects of a teacher's abilities will have priority. Additionally, teachers will no longer be assigned to buildings based simply on seniority. Instead, teachers must be approved by a team of the principal, parents and teachers at each building.

MORE FREEDOM AND TEACHING TOOLS FOR FAILING BUILDINGS

Cleveland parents are no stranger to schools that are failing their children. Moving away from a bureaucratic system that failed to quickly respond to poor performance, district leaders now will have the ability to swiftly respond to problems by bringing in new staff or changing the instructional program. District leaders will also be able to provide additional teaching tools for struggling students or students in failing schools, such as additional instruction, special tutoring or even a longer school day or year—whatever it takes to help children succeed.

RESOURCES AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Cleveland's children deserve a quality education from both district and charter schools and parents deserve choices for how they educate their children. By district and charter schools combining forces, Cleveland's students gain from revenue sharing, best practices exchanges, and more opportunity for all. Recommendations to the state for new charter authorizations and performance measures for all schools will be managed by the Cleveland Transformation Alliance, a board comprised of community leaders, not politicians. Additionally, the board of education of the Cleveland school district will have decision-making authority for any charter schools the board wishes to sponsor.

BOTTOM LINE: Ohio needs Cleveland to succeed and for Cleveland to succeed its schools must succeed. The status quo hasn't been working, so thanks to efforts between the state and the city, between the public and private sectors, between labor and management and between Republicans and Democrats, Cleveland's children will now have a plan that will help turn their schools around and give the city hope once again. By embracing and creating positive change, Mayor Jackson and all of Cleveland is ready to take a positive step forward and give its kids the support they need to succeed.

ⁱ http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2012/05/cleveland_school_districts_tea.html