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Transparency in Public Reporting Continues as State Superintendent Heffner Releases Preview of School and District Rankings

Parents and communities will have new information to better understand how effectively Ohio's public schools are helping students learn with a new ranking of Ohio public school buildings' performance released today by Superintendent of Public Instruction Stan W. Heffner. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) will release a final list by September 2012 as required by state law. The draft ranking list can be viewed [here](#).

"Educators, parents and communities can make informed decisions about improving their schools when they have the right information. The ranking list is a powerful tool we can use to see how local schools stack up with similar communities around the state," Heffner said. "Next year, this list will be coupled with financial data to give the public a clear way to see who is delivering the most return on the community's educational investment."

Each school building in city, local and exempted village school districts, as well as joint vocational school districts, community schools and STEM schools are ranked using a Performance Index (PI) score. PI scores combine individual students' results on all tested subjects in grades 3-8 on Ohio's Achievement Assessments (OAA's) and on the 10th-grade Ohio Graduation Test (OGTs). The Performance Index score has been widely used and endorsed by Ohio educators since its adoption in 2003.*

The PI scores are not new, and it has been possible to create ranking lists with them using existing interactive tools on the ODE website. Such district and county rankings have been done frequently by independent groups, but this is the first statewide ranking completed and released by ODE.

The rankings are required under House Bill 153. The final ranking list is required to be released by September 2012.

**Calculating the Performance Index*

All assessments have five performance levels, which include: Advanced; Accelerated; Proficient; Basic; and Limited. The percentage of students scoring at each performance level is calculated, and then multiplied by the point value assigned to that performance level. The points earned for each performance level are totaled to determine each school's Performance Index score, where applicable.