



Senator Mark Wagoner
2nd Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

September 14, 2011

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**STATE REPORT CARDS FOR 2ND SENATE DISTRICT SHOW
'EXCELLENCE'**

BY STATE SENATOR MARK WAGONER

COLUMBUS – In August, the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) announced the assessments of our state's schools in the form of annual district report cards. The 2nd Senate District has much to be proud about seeing that 17 of our school districts were deemed 'Excellent' by ODE. Three of these districts – Rossford Exempted Village, Bowling Green City, and Northwood Local – are among Ohio's most effective classrooms and were honored as being 'Excellent with Distinction'.

Signs of improvement were seen this year as more than 350 districts across Ohio were named 'Excellent' and 89 of which earned the top honor of 'Excellent with Distinction'. Last year, only 296 districts earned 'Excellent' marks. In addition, almost 90-percent of our state's school districts improved on their Performance Index scores from last year.

Education reform is a topic of constant discussion at all levels of government. Finding new ways to better serve our children and teachers is of the utmost importance to policymakers. Efforts are already underway in Ohio to place greater focus on students rather than bureaucracy and to retain our best and brightest teachers. I am confident that by working together with parents, faculty, and administrators, we will make Ohio's classrooms competitive on both the national and global levels.

Educating our young people is a collaborative effort and is often an act that greatly defines an entire community. It is always a pleasure to witness citizens taking pride in their local schools and working together to build a vibrant atmosphere of learning.

I ask that all of our friends and neighbors join me in congratulating all those that have worked tirelessly to make our schools true cornerstones of our communities.