



Senator Tim Schaffer
31st Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

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SCHOOLS IN THE 31ST DISTRICT PROVE ‘EXCELLENT’

BY STATE SENATOR TIM SCHAFFER

COLUMBUS – Summer concluded with some great news for the 31st Senate District. The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) released its annual report cards for local school districts across the state, and a number of our area’s school systems received top honors.

The tireless work of our students and teachers was on display as 18 districts were deemed ‘Excellent’ by ODE. Six of these districts – Bloom-Carroll Local, Canal Winchester Local, Granville Exempted, Logan Local, Pickerington Local, and Teays Valley Local – received the highest designation of ‘Excellent with Distinction’ and have clearly established themselves as being among Ohio’s most effective classrooms.

The report cards assess levels of achievement and effectiveness at our schools and help to identify areas in which improvement is most needed. Ohio saw a boost in the number of its districts being rated ‘Excellent’, as 352 systems received the honor this year compared to 296 in 2010. Of those districts, 89 received the added ‘Excellent with Distinction’ honor. In addition, nearly 90-percent of school districts statewide improved on their Performance Index scores this time around.

Education reform, whether on the state or federal level, is never too far from the center of our public discourse. New efforts are underway in Ohio to place children at the forefront of education by offering fair and valuable evaluations of educators and incentivizing our highest-performing schools. These measures are geared toward making our classrooms more competitive on both a national and global scale. However, the formulation of education policy remains an ongoing process that demands a full commitment from teachers, administrators, parents, and policymakers alike.

The education of our children is often the cornerstone of any community and ranks among the top civic priorities any of us could possibly have. Few things provide me with greater pride than seeing our friends and neighbors actively supporting our schools.

I ask everybody to join me in commending the students, teachers, parents, and administrators who have placed our communities’ schools among Ohio’s best.

State Senator Tim Schaffer was elected to the Ohio Senate in 2006 after serving in the Ohio House of Representatives for six years. His legislative accomplishments include enacting anti-corruption reforms, income tax indexing, and stronger penalties on sexual predators. He and his wife reside in Lancaster.