

# Tribune Chronicle

## Two Warren schools get higher ratings

By RAYMOND L. SMITH Tribune Chronicle

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While the Warren City School District remained in Academic Watch in the Ohio Report Cards released this week, two schools - Warren G. Harding High School and Lincoln K-8 - are rated as Continuous Improvement. Harding students passed four of the 12 state indicators, including 10th-grade writing, 11th-grade reading and writing, as well as having a graduation rate of 91 percent. Its students nearly achieved state requirements on the 11th grade mathematics and social studies tests.

At Lincoln, students passed state indicators on the fourth- grade Achievement Tests and maintained the minimum state requirements for attendance.

Two schools, McGuffey and Jefferson, are in Academic Watch, and Willard is in Academic Emergency. Superintendent Kathryn Hellweg believes Willard's rating was severely affected by the shooting death of one of its students.

"It (the shooting) happened the same week the (achievement) tests were supposed to be taken," Hellweg said. "We were able to convince the state to delay the test for a week, but really, that is not a lot of time.

"It is hard to concentrate if you're worried about your safety and grieving the loss of a family member or a friend."

Lincoln school, which is in a more affluent area of the city, has fewer students on free and reduce lunch programs. "If you're not hungry, you are better able to concentrate," Hellweg said.

"Looking at scores across the board, all the schools have made significant progress," she said. "All of our K-8 schools achieved attendance levels and the high school nearly made the level."

### CHAMPION

While all of the schools in the Champion School District earned Excellent ratings on the state report card, its Middle School earned the state's top rating of Excellent with Distinction.

"I'm proud of all of our schools," Superintendent Pam Hood said. "This is the seventh year that the district has achieved an excellent rating. We expect our schools to achieve Excellent ratings." Hood said the "With Distinction," category is closely tied to value-added measures added to the report cards several years ago.

"We have outstanding teachers and administrators, a great board of education that gives us what we need to continue to improve and a community that supports us," she said. "When all of those things come together, you will get what we have in Champion. We are fortunate that we have the right dynamics that have come together that is helping us achieve success."

### WEATHERSFIELD

Weathersfield School District was rated Effective, but two of its schools - Seaborn Elementary and Mineral Ridge High - achieved Excellent ratings. Its high school earned the maximum 12 out of 12 on the report card indicators, and the elementary school earned six out of six in the indicators.

Mineral Ridge Middle School earned nine out of 14 indicators, failing to meet minimum standards in the fifth grade reading, mathematics, science, and social studies, as well as failing to meet minimum standards in eighth-grade social studies.

"We are very satisfied with the overall ratings," Superintendent Damon J. Dohar said. "Obviously, we have some thing we have to work on as a district. We will be working in every category for fifth grade."

Mineral Ridge High School Principal Lewis L. Lowery said 10 of the 12 indicators high school students must pass are part of the Ohio Graduation Test.

"We provided OGT workshops for our teachers and OGT intervention programs for our students to make sure they were prepared for the test," Lowery said.

To boost the high school buildings attendance rate, Lowery we told our seniors that if they maintained high level attendance throughout the school year, they would have the option of taking their final examinations.

"Our goal for next year will be to increase our performance index and to do better on value-added measures," Lowery said. "That will help the district as a whole."

### **NEWTON FALLS**

In Newton Falls, the district's high and middle school were rated Excellent. Its elementary school was rated Effective and its junior high was rated in Continuous Improvement.

"We must work with all of our sub-groups in our junior high school," Dave Wilson, superintendent of Newton Falls Exempted Village School.

In the junior high, which has the district's seventh- and eighth-grade students, the only indicator students passed was seventh-grade mathematics. They did not pass seventh-grade reading or writing. They also failed to achieve minimum status in eighth-grade reading, math, science or social studies.

"We were close on several indicators," Wilson said.

The district is analyzing the data for each student to determine what they need to do better in the higher grades.

### **BLOOMFIELD-MESPO**

Bloomfield-Mespo is rated an Excellent system, with its Mesopotamia Elementary earning an Excellent rating and its high school earning an Excellent with Distinction rating. The high school achieved 20 out of 21 state indicators, only failing to earn the minimum standards in eighth-grade social studies.

***High School Principal Steve Kobus said the school was able to move up to the highest rating due to work it has done with the Trumbull County Educational Service Center.***

"They helped to identify our weaknesses on the tests," Kobus said. "Trumbull County ESC told us our students had weaknesses in the way they were answering extended response and short answer questions. We specifically worked to improve these areas."

### **SOUTHINGTON**

While Southington School District earned an Effective rating, its elementary school was rated Excellent with Distinction. It earned six out of six in the state indicator, had a 95.5 performance index, met its Adequate yearly Progress goals and had an above than expected Value-Added measure.

Because of Southington's small student population, Linda Davenport, an elementary school teacher, believes teachers are able to work together in determining students' strengths and weaknesses.

"A lot of us go online to go learn what other teachers are doing elsewhere and in other states," she said.

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