

Constellation Schools Lorain Community Elementary

EFFECTIVE 2009-2010

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

"The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children!"



-ducation is the

0

to SUCCESS!

2009 - 2010 Annual Report

2010 - 2011 School Calendar



Constellation Schools Lorain Community ElementaryFinancial Report for Fiscal Year 2010

Highlights for the Year ✓ 8th annual audit issued for 2009 with an "unqualified opinion" (best opinion available)

The Cash Basis Report of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended June 30, 2010 reflects the activities of Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary during the year. The information provided below refers to this report and the accompanying graphs.

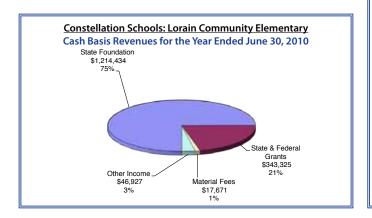
Revenues

The largest source of operating revenue (75%) comes from the State of Ohio School Foundation Program. This funding is earned at a base rate of \$5,718 for each student enrolled during the year. Additional funds are provided for the special needs of students, the poverty level of the community in which each student resides, and other adjustments.

State and Federal Grants (21%) supplement school operations for specific purposes. The school received grants for Title I Intervention, Professional Development, Technology, Special Education, Child Nutrition Services, State Fiscal Stabilization Funds, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Statistical Reporting (EMIS) and Electronic Communications.

Materials Fees (1%) are collected from each student to provide consumable materials used during the year.

Other income (3%) includes interest earned on bank account activity, contributions and donations, lunch collections, services provided to Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Middle and other miscellaneous items.



Constellation Schools: Lorain Community Elementary Cash Basis Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the Year ended June 30, 2010 (Unaudited) Beginning Cash - July 1, 2009 796,506 Revenues State Foundation 1.214.434 343.325 State & Federal Grants **Material Fees** 17,671 Other Income 46,927 **Total Revenue** 1.622.357 **Expenditures** 663,802 Personnel Retirement & Benefits 189,490 **Purchased Services** 644,836 Supplies & Materials 73,474 **Capital Outlay** 20,124 Other 32,187 Total Expenditures 1,623,913 Ending Cash - June 30, 2010 794,950

Additional Information

A more detailed set of financial statements may be obtained by calling (440) 845-4200, writing to the Treasurer, Constellation Schools 5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 or by e-mail at the following address: babb.thomas@constellationschools.com.

During the fall of 2010 an audit of the school's financial records for the year ended June 30, 2010 will be completed. The audit report should be available during the winter at the above address and on the Auditor of State's website: www.auditor.state.oh.us.

Expenditures

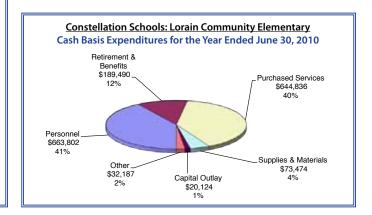
Personnel services, combined with retirement and benefits, accounted for 53% of the expenditures for the year. These expenditures include principal, support staff, teachers, state retirement systems, employment taxes and health insurances.

Purchased services **(40%)** include expenditures for student support services (speech, psychologist, health, physical therapy and occupational therapy), physical education, field trips, professional development, management services, sponsor services, test scoring, data reporting, facility lease and operations, equipment leases, telephone, postage, travel, marketing, printing, food services and other services.

Supplies and materials (4%) include textbooks, instructional supplies, testing materials, office supplies, medical supplies, instructional software and maintenance supplies.

Capital Outlay (1%) includes purchases of equipment and furniture.

Other (2%) includes audit fees, insurances (property, liability, fidelity bond, directors & officers), dues and subscriptions and other miscellaneous.





Mission, Vision, Value Statements & Slogans



Mission

Constellation Schools create and provide diverse superior educational opportunities for a community of learners, built on a foundation of character education in a safe environment, ensuring the success of all children in our advancing technological society.



Value

As a school of choice, we believe all children deserve a superior education in a safe, caring, nurturing environment. **W**e will create a community of learners where children excel, become responsible citizens, and are exposed to the highest ethical standards.

Organization Slogan

The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children!

Vision

Constellation Schools will create a premier learning community characterized by high expectations and academic excellence.

Our students will be actively engaged in the process of learning and will become responsible involved citizens. They will be life long learners, technologically proficient and perform to their maximum potential.

Our personnel will be committed, competent, compassionate individuals who will consistently exemplify the highest ethical and professional standards.

Our management team will provide superior leadership, resources, and support to facilitate the optimal operations of our school.

Our Board of Directors will guide the organization in creating a culture of excellence and success.

Character Education Slogan

Remember We all have Choices. Choices have Consequences. Be Smart and Make the Right Choice!

Constellation Schools admit students of any race, color, national or ethic origin, and will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, disability, age or gender in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, hiring, and employee retention policies, scholarships and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.



Chairman's Message



Our commitment to excellence continues to pay dividends. Once again, preliminary results from the Ohio Department of Education indicate that most of our schools will be rated "Excellent" and "Effective." It is important to acknowledge the hard work that goes into obtaining these outstanding results, and I commend the administrators, teachers and staff of Constellation and our schools for their efforts. We have many great professionals throughout our organization and it is because of them, and all they do on a daily basis, that the children entrusted to us are receiving a great education.

Throughout this past year we have maintained our commitment to professional development and have expanded collaboration opportunities with a focus on improving student performance. Our goal is to have highly effective teachers in every classroom and to provide them with the tools and resources they require to ensure that every child performs to his or her full potential.

It is also important to acknowledge the continued support we receive from our parents. The role parents play in the education of their children should not be underestimated. Involved, active parents ensure that students will be engaged in their education. When parents take an interest in what's going on at school, children are more engaged and accountable students. Throughout Constellation we are fortunate to have the support of concerned parents.

Although we completed the last of several building/expansion projects during this year, many of our schools are once again approaching capacity and we are exploring ways to meet the growing demand for our schools. We are also interested in continuing to improve the learning environments of our existing schools to ensure that our students have the best opportunity to be successful. In addition, we are always looking for opportunities to open new schools. Unfortunately, locating appropriate facilities remains a major impediment and we have not had success in convincing public school districts to give us access to their closed buildings. However, we will continue our efforts to secure some of these closed schools.

The success and growth of our Parma Community High School continues to be a source of great pride. Going into its fourth year, we are pleased by its growth. There are now waiting lists of students wanting to enroll in the school. And the 2010/2011 school year will see the first class graduate from our high school. This will be an exciting year as we prepare the seniors for graduation and all of the events leading up to it.

The coming school year is shaping up to be another challenging year as we initiate two new schools – a middle school in the Stockyard neighborhood and an elementary school in the Collinwood neighborhood. We are also excited about initiating a high school in Lorain this year. We will start with 9th grade, just as we did in Parma, and grow the school over the next four years.

Constellation's community schools will, once more, make up the majority of the high performing community schools in northeast Ohio and throughout the state, supporting our belief that Constellation schools are "The Right Choice for Parents and a Real Chance for Children."



Constellation Schools & Its History



Constellation Schools, LLC was established to create and operate high quality community (charter) schools by offering a superior, safe learning environment. Currently there are sixteen (16) Constellation Schools in Northeast Ohio.

Constellation Schools offer families a real choice for their children to receive a high-quality education. Our schools are privately operated public charter schools of choice. An education at Constellation starts during the early years of kindergarten, where we begin to prepare students to become successful, well-rounded, life-long learners by developing their academic foundation and providing them with the tools to be successful in their future endeavors. Our learning communities are characterized by small classes, high expectations, involved parents, and engaged students. We provide safe and secure buildings; the best available curriculum; current textbooks; and, extensive use of computers and other technology. Character education is the cornerstone of our program. Students are expected to adhere to a demanding code of behavioral conduct. including a dress code, and are held accountable for their actions through a comprehensive and strict disciplinary policy. Constellation Schools hires only highly qualified, state-certified/licensed teachers and provides extensive and on-going professional development for all personnel.

In addition, our schools offer parents a real opportunity to be involved in the education of their child by creating a learning community where teachers, parents and students work together to ensure academic success for all students. Parents are expected to be active participants in the education of their children, support the schools policies, supervise homework and attend conferences.

Constellation Schools Grades K-4

Old Brooklyn Community Elementary (1998) Westside Community School of the Arts (2007)

Cherie Kaiser, Principal 4430 State Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109 216.661.7888 • 216.661.5975 fax

Westpark Community Elementary (2001)

Macey Baldizzi, Principal 16210 Lorain, Cleveland, Ohio 44111 216.688.0271 • 216.688.0273 fax

Lorain Community Elementary (2001)

Melisa Shady, Principal 201 West Erie Avenue, Lorain, Ohio 44052 440.204.2130 • 440.204.2134 fax

Puritas Community Elementary (2003)

Meg Paulus, Principal 15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135 216.688.0680 • 216.688.0609 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-3 Mansfield Community Elementary (2002)

Bethany Scott, Principal 215 North Trimble Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 419.522.4578 • 419.522.0045 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-5

Deborah Kilbane, Principal 3727 Bosworth, Cleveland, Ohio 44111 216.688.1900 • 216.688.1902 fax

Constellation Schools K-6

Elyria Community Elementary (2001)

Tracey Frierson, Principal 300 North Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.366.5225 • 440.366.6280 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-8

Stockyard Community Elementary (2004)

Amber Edmisten, Principal 3200 West 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102 216.651.5143 • 216.651.9515 fax

Madison Community Elementary (2004)

Melissa Sanuk, Principal 2015 West 95th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102 216.651.5212 • 216.651.9040 fax

Constellation Schools Grades 4-6

Mansfield Community Middle (2009)

Bethany Scott, Principal 455 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 419.522.3563 • 419.522.2705 fax

Constellation Schools Grades 5-8

Old Brooklyn Community Middle (2006)

Amy Mobley, Principal 4430 State Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109 216.351.0280 • 216.661.5975 fax

Westpark Community Middle (2006)

Karil Sako, Principal 16210 Lorain, Cleveland, Ohio 44111 216.251.7200 • 216.251.0355 fax

Puritas Community Middle (2006)

Donald Disantis, Principal 15204 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44135 216.251.1596 • 216.251.3540 fax

Lorain Community Middle (2006)

Debbie Thoren, Principal 307 West 7th Street, Lorain, Ohio 44052 440.242.2023 • 440.244.0857 fax

Constellation Schools Grades K-11

Parma Community Elementary, Middle & High

(2000)

Linda Geyer, Principal Elementary 7667 Day Drive, Parma, Ohio 44129 440.888.5490 • 440.888.5890 fax Middle and High 5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 440.845.2587 • 440.845.2834 fax

Constellation Schools K-12

Outreach Academy (2006)

Mary Wideman-Blake, Principal 3727 Bosworth, Cleveland, Ohio 44111 216.688.1244 • 330.732.2497 fax

Constellation Schools, LLC **Administrative Office**

5983 West 54th Street, Parma, Ohio 44129 440.845.4200 • 440.845.4201 fax



Special Services



Constellation Schools has a commitment to provide a free and appropriate public education for children with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws, rules, and regulations. In that endeavor, the Educational Support Services Department works to assist all of our schools in the following specialized areas: Special Education, Psychological Services, Speech and Language Services, School Health Services, Occupational Therapy Services, and Physical Therapy Services.

Additionally, the Educational Support Services Department assists each of our schools in creating and maintaining their Intervention Assistance Teams, writing Section 504 Plans, Title 1 support, and Gifted Support.

Psychological Services

Psychologists employed by Constellation Schools are Ohio Department of Education licensed and have specialized training in both psychology and education. They collaborate with parents and community agencies in order to coordinate services and interventions for students. They provide consultative services to educators and are members of the school-based Intervention Assistance Team.

School psychologists assist in assessment, eligibility, and program planning for students with disabilities as part of a range of special education services that Constellation Schools provides. Counseling may be delivered to special education students who demonstrate behavioral difficulties that impede their educational progress. Crisis intervention is also provided when necessary.

Speech & Language Services

Good communication skills are important for speaking, listening, reading, writing, and learning at school. Some students have communication difficulties that can interfere with their ability to understand and participate in classroom instruction and impair their relationships with teachers and other children. Students who are formally identified as having communication problems that adversely affect their education are eligible to receive speech and/or language services from a speech & language pathologist.

Speech & language services can be provided in a variety of ways, depending on the student's needs. Collaboration with teachers is important to ensure the student's communication goals are integrated into the classroom.

School Health Services

Constellation Schools believes that good health is basic to educational outcomes and productive living. Therefore, our coordinated school health program focuses on collaboration between administrators, staff, families and the community to ensure that our students learn in a healthy school environment and obtain a state of health and wellness that will allow them to learn and achieve their maximum potential.

School health services, one component of a school health program, are provided by professional school nurses. School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement of students. To that end, the school nurses of Constellation Schools follow the standards of School Nursing Practice (National Association of School Nurses) and the state and federal laws that govern health services in schools.

Occupational Therapy Services

School-based occupational therapy is available for students who are eligible for this service. The profession of occupational therapy is concerned with a person's ability to participate in meaningful and purposeful daily life activities or "occupations."

In the school setting, the role of the occupational therapist is to help children perform important learning and school-related activities in order to fulfill their role as students. Occupational therapy services support a child's participation in occupations of daily living (dressing, eating, etc.), academic areas, play, leisure, and social interactions.

As part of the educational team within a school setting, occupational therapists work closely with the student, parents, and educators to identify the skills of the student, the demands of the environment, and appropriate solutions for interventions based on each child's unique needs.



Technology





Using technology is an important part of life at Constellation Schools. We provide an extensive technology tool set to our students, to create a superior learning environment where they can explore new ways of working, delve into the practically unlimited encyclopedia of available knowledge, and understand the ways information is shared and problems are solved. Constellation recognizes the importance of learning in a safe environment, so we train our teachers to guide student learning, and back them up with a powerful set of filters and firewalls that keep our computer network focused on academic success.

We invest heavily into classroom technology, and are better equipped than most public schools. Nearly every classroom is outfitted with a large interactive board, where the teacher and students can view and manipulate information on a giant

computer screen. Each 'SMART Board' can be used to share an Internet web guest with the entire class, or

allow individual students to physically interact with digital objects on screen, moving, changing, writing, and drawing to get to the point of the lesson. They also provide a great screen for watching videos from our school wide Discovery Streaming service. This is a subscription to a wealth of videos and lesson materials from The Discovery Channel. We subscribe because we know children today are "digital natives" who respond better and engage more when multimedia is involved.

Constellation Schools are equipped with computer labs, where every child in a class can participate in guided computer based instruction as a group. Several of our middle schools are in the first full year of a 1-to-1 laptop program, where every student has their own laptop that can be used in any class as needed. Constellation is always looking for the best tools to enrich our classrooms, and our newest gadget for learning is rolling out in Spring of 2010. After thorough evaluation and many requests from our



teachers, we will be getting Student Response Systems (called "clickers"). Each student gets a clicker, like a small TV remote, and uses them to answer guick guestions built into the lesson. This way every student gets the chance to answer every question, and the teacher instantly knows how many of the students "get it" and if she can move on or needs to spend more time on a topic. This really helps for children that might be a little shy about speaking up, but all the students love using them. The instant data about student comprehension really helps the teacher fine tune the instruction.

Our teachers receive extensive technology training, from after school workshops to major conferences. Constellation provides top quality training so our teachers are ready to use modern educational technology to its fullest advantage. Our teacher coaches are also tech savvy and assist other teachers with technology use in the classroom.



Technology We know that technology isn't going away. It's becoming more and more common all the time. From our very Mission Statement to our individual students, we strive to ensure the success of every child in our advancing technological society.



Educational Plans/Programs





During the 2009-2010 academic year, all Constellation Schools utilized the Ohio Academic Content Standards Education Program to prepare our students for the Ohio Achievement Assessments at Grades 3-8 and the Ohio Graduation Test at Grade 10.

All of our curriculum is selected and reviewed annually by our Curriculum Council and ultimately approved by each of our School's Boards. Our curriculum is aligned with the Ohio Academic Content Standards and is designed to guide students toward their grade level goals. Content areas include: Reading/Language Arts, Spelling/Phonics, Math, Science, Social Studies, Music, Physical Education/Health, Computers and Spanish. During the 2009-2010 school year, the science curriculum was completely reviewed and the curriculum committee selected a new program Science: A Closer Look for grades K-6.

Teachers establish high academic measures for achievement and behavior in their classrooms. Through age appropriate teaching methods, all students will reach or exceed their maximum potential. The cornerstone of our academic program is our strong emphasis on Character Education. Character Education permeates throughout our curriculum. All of our classrooms and hallways have a variety of posters and bulletin boards that define acceptable character. Good behavior and appropriate manners from everyone is a constant expectation of our students and staff. Character Education enhances our educational plan while securing a safe and nurturing learning environment for all of our students.

Title 1 services (small grouping with a reading/math teacher) and Special Education Services are implemented to assist students who qualify for special services. Furthermore, our classroom instruction is enhanced through the use of Technology in our computer labs, integrating classroom projects with such programs as word processing, power point presentations and internet research. Many of our classrooms are utilizing Smart Board Education and all of our schools are utilizing the latest in technology innovations.



Professional Development



Constellation Schools are committed to quality professional development. Our Local Professional Development Committee (LPDC) follows all state requirements to renew teaching/principal certificates and licensures. Our professional renewal process ensures a close connection between renewal activities of the educators and classroom practices. The continued development and improvement of relevant and applicable professional pedagogical skills and knowledge are essential to the education process. Through professional development we can ensure that all students reach their full potential to contribute to a democratic society including maximizing each student's abilities and encouraging self-reflection and a lifelong love of learning.

Several professional development opportunities before the start of the school year were provided such as:

- Positive Discipline
- Classroom Management
- Character Education in the Classroom
- Differentiated Instruction
- Progress book
- Teaching Strategies
- Special Education Procedures
- Technology in the Classroom
- Curriculum

Constellation Schools provided teachers with an opportunity to choose various professional development workshops to enhance their own professional growth. Such opportunities included:

- Crisis Prevention
- Grade Level Conferences
- Title One Conference
- Middle School Conference
- Using Technology to improve Reading and Math Instruction
- Smart board Training
- Reading Plus
- Study Island

Entry Year Teacher Program

A full year program was provided to all entry year teachers. This program offered monthly meetings, support, and information that enhanced the first year teacher's experience. Teacher Development Coaches were added to schools to work with entry year teachers throughout the school year. The coaches were available to the entry year teachers to serve as their mentors within the school day. This full year experience with a mentor provided the support needed as well as provided for individual needs for every first year teacher.

Leadership Training Program

The leadership training program is a one year intern program that provides an intense hands-on experience for highly qualified, successful teachers who wish to become leaders. The professional development internship is on going, highly focused, and designed to meet the individual needs of each intern.



Directors & Administrative Staff



Gerald Preseren

Executive Director

Crystal Victor

Receptionist

Thomas Babb

Treasurer

Jean Sandler

Accountant

Dee Ann Bruner Edie Myhre

Administrative Assistants-Finance

Rebecca Novak

EMIS Manager

David Calco

Technology Coordinator

Gary Schaefer

Lisa Geyer Randall Kufel

Shawnda Thombs

Technology Specialists

John Roberts

Coordinator of Educational Programs

Roy Zeman

Coordinator of Educational Services

Becky Jordan

Heather Zeman

Jamie Parker

Kevin Panek

Lisa Stepney

School Psychologists

Amanda Stricker

Candace Hurley

Jill Teresczuk

Speech & Language Pathologists

Frances Horvath

Karen Boose

Occupational Therapists

Kimberly Stanislo Malinda Miller

Lisa Stern

Julia Howerton

Kelley Vazquez

Elizabeth Clause

Kristen Johnson

Diane Sauder

School Nurses

April Gunderman

Manager of Special Education

Sharon Morgan

Coordinator of Staff & Professional Development

Marybeth Oko

Administrative Assistant

Shelia Woidke

Adrienne Dancsok

Megan Lange

Gregory Cek

Laura Horvath

Teacher Coach

Alice Weeks

Leadership Trainee

Jeffrey Soltis

Facility Operations Manger

John Allen

Maintenance

Karen Florian

Human Resource Manager

Amy Spears

Administrative Assistant

Audrey Petsche Sims

Manager of Community Engagement

Lisa Vinarcik

Manager of Marketing & Public Relations

Constellation Schools ~ Lorain Community Elementary Sponsor

James George, Director of Community Schools

Lucas County Educational Service Center • Collingwood Center • 2275 Collingwood Rd. Toledo, Ohio 43624 • 419.295.4150









Lorain Community Elementary Board & Staff



School Nurse

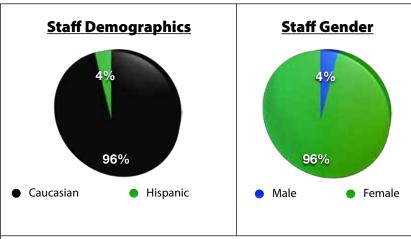
Julia Howerton

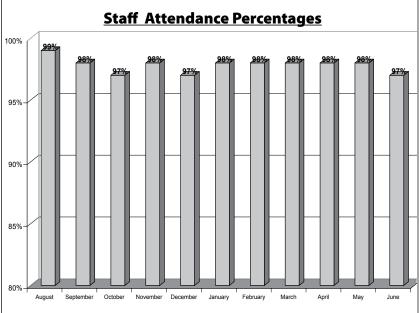
Food Service

Custodian

Patricia Balas

Magadline Szalai





Lorain Community Elementary Staff

Principal Melisa Shady

Administrative Assistants

Gladys Ramos Llorens Monica Rinella

Kindergarten

Lindsay Moser Maria Workman

1st Grade

Elizabeth Baker Jennifer Limpert

2nd Grade

Melissa Faustini Amy Herkenhoff

3rd Grade Maggie Frey Sarah Steele 4th Grade

Diane Mason Chrystal Urbansky

Title I

Jeni Banyas Laura Moore Kammera Rice

Teaching Aide Sarah Whatley

Special Education Katherin Maybaum

Special Education/Building Substitute

Julie Jones

Music Teacher Alison Ortenzi

Psychologist Jamie Parker

Lorain Community Elementary Board

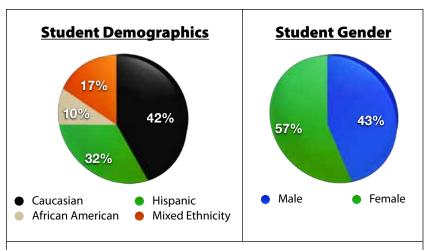
Board President - Mark Stypczynski

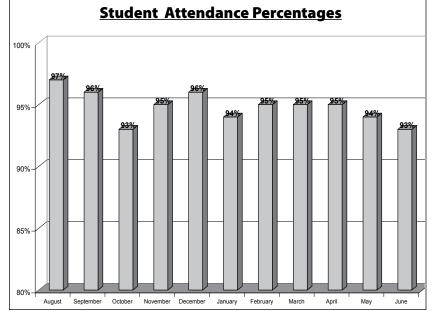
Board Members - Leo Tischer - Laura Trivison - Anna Hogan - Deborah Kilbane



Student Enrollment, Attendance & Demographics







About Our Students

Students at Lorain Community Elementary are enrolled on a first come, first served basis during the first two weeks of December. Those students who are currently enrolled are ensured a place for the following school year if they enroll during these two weeks. If more students apply than there are spots, a lottery is held and a waiting list is formed.

Student per Class/Teacher Ratio for the 2009-2010

20 Students: 1 Teacher

178 Students Enrolled

80% Eligible for Low Income

Demographics

10% African American

42% Caucasian

32% Hispanic

17% Mixed Ethnicity



Home School Notification

The school is a public school and students enrolled in and attending the school are required to take achievement tests and other examinations prescribed by law. In addition, there may be other requirements for students at the school that are prescribed by law. Students who have been excused from the compulsory attendance law for the purpose of home education as defined by the Administrative code shall no longer be excused for that purpose upon their enrollment in a community school.



OAA - Ohio Achievement Assessments



STATE	PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS AT AND ABOVE THE PROFICIENT LEVEL			
INDICATORS	Lorain Community Elementary 2009-2010	School Comparison Group ¹ 2009-2010	State 2009-2010	
3rd Grade Achievement	The state requirement is 75 percent			
1. Reading	91.9	58.2	78.4	
2. Mathematics	86.5	58.5	76.9	
4th Grade Achievement				
3. Reading	67.9	59.2	81.0	
4. Mathematics	46.4	54.3	76.2	
5. Writing	NC	NC	NC	

PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE

The Performance Index Score reflects the achievement of every tested student. The score is a weighted average of all tested subjects in grades 3-8 and 10. The most weight is given to the advanced students (1.2), and the weights decrease for each performance level. This creates a scale of 0 to 120 points, with 100 being the goal. Looking at the Performance Index Score over time shows trends in school achievement.

Performance Index Score Over Time	2009-2010	2008-2009	2007-2008
	93.5	94.6	89.5



Stanford Achievement Test



The Stanford Achievement Test—Tenth Edition is administered annually in grades K-8 to determine student progress within and across the curriculum. The results below are reflective of the most recent administration in March of 2010. The data indicates the percentage of students within each grade level who performed below average (white), average (black) or above average (gray) in the areas of Math and Reading.



