



MAY 2006

## Leadership Council Convenes in Washington, D.C.



The Leadership Council of the Ohio 8 convened in Washington, D.C. March 14 – 16 to share the story about Ohio's urban districts with legislators and other policymakers.

The sessions opened with a presentation by Alex Nock, Director of the bi-partisan NCLB Commission. Bob Wise, former governor of West Virginia and president of the Alliance for Excellent Education, also addressed the Leadership Council about various high school reform and dropout prevention efforts.

Members of the Leadership Council met with Senator George Voinovich, outlining results of a recent study which indicated that urban students are improving test scores by larger margins than Ohio students overall.



Members also highlighted policy recommendations developed by the Coalition, focusing on the following areas:

- Measuring Student Performance and Adequate Yearly Progress
- Choice and Unified Accountability
- Technical Assistance for Low Performing Schools
- Highly Qualified Teachers and Leaders
- Family and Community Engagement
- Funding

Members also met with additional legislators and staff from the offices of Rep. Ralph Regula, Rep. Steve Chabot, Rep. John Boehner, Rep. Ted Strickland and Rep. Deborah Pryce.

The final component of the Washington D.C. meeting was a panel discussion with education leaders, including Michael Casserly of the Council



of the Great City Schools; Reggie Felton of the National School Boards Association; Bruce Hunter, American Association of School Administrators; Joel Packer of the National Education Association; Kim Anderson of the National Education Association; and David Sherman of the American Federation of Teachers. Individual panelists discussed their organization's stance on the current NCLB legislation, and steps that each organization would be taking as the law moves to reauthorization.

More information about student achievement data and the Coalition's Policy Recommendations can be found on the Ohio 8 website: [www.ohio8.org](http://www.ohio8.org).



*U.S. Rep. Ralph Regula meets with Ohio 8 representatives in Washington D.C.*

## Ohio 8 Launches Website

The new Ohio 8 Website can be found by clicking [www.ohio8.org](http://www.ohio8.org).

Designed to enhance public awareness about the eight big-city school districts, the website is also a valuable resource to media, state policymakers and educational organizations.

The website provides basic information about the Ohio 8 Coalition's mission, priorities and leadership. Additional components feature daily headlines relating to educational issues gleaned from newspapers throughout the state.

## New Data Sets Demonstrate Continued Student Progress

For the second year, the Coalition tracked reading and math scores on the Ohio Proficiency Tests, as reported by the Ohio Department of Education. For fourth and sixth graders from the 1998-99 school year to the 2004-05 school year, students in the eight big-city school districts improved at a more rapid rate than the state as a whole. To see the updated data, click on [www.ohio8.org](http://www.ohio8.org) and go to "News".

## Second Summit on Urban Education in Ohio Scheduled

The second Ohio 8 Coalition Summit on Urban Education is scheduled for **Thursday and Friday**,

**October 11 and 12, 2007** in Columbus, Ohio. Additional details about keynote speakers and overall theme will be announced soon.

## Safe and Civil Schools Mini-Summit Scheduled

The Ohio 8 has scheduled a "mini-summit," focusing on safe and civil schools, Tuesday, May 16, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. The event is chaired by Dianne Talarico and Sam Dorto.

The session will feature Bill Modzeleski, director of Safe & Drug Free Schools, at the U.S. Department of Education. Urban districts will also have a chance to share best practices with their peers.

For more information, contact the Ohio 8 office, 216.241.9400.

## Next Meetings

The next regular meeting of the Ohio 8 Coalition will be June 15 – 16, 2006 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus, Ohio.

Additional meetings are scheduled for:

- September 21-22, 2006
- December 7-8, 2006

**Ohio 8 Coalition**  
1422 Euclid Ave. Suite 1530  
Cleveland OH 44115  
216.241.9400

*William Wendling, Executive Director*  
*Courtney Clarke, Program Director*

The Ohio 8 - an alliance of urban superintendents and teacher union presidents working to improve the performance and close the achievement gap for urban children throughout Ohio.

### Supported by:

The Cleveland Foundation, George Gund Foundation, Martha Holden Jennings Foundation, Joyce Foundation, KnowledgeWorks Foundation and Stupski Foundation.