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## Ohio Council of Community Schools Takes Steps Forward, State Ratings Show

TOLEDO, Ohio – Most schools under the sponsorship of the Ohio Council of Community Schools made forward strides or maintained their standing in the 2007-2008 school year, a report from the Ohio Department of Education released today shows.

The report shows that 77% of OCCS schools that were ranked had either improved or maintained their current designations while 23% declined, compared to the 2006-2007 figures. Ten of the 49 OCCS schools were not ranked.

**“These scores truly indicate what a strong student focus can do to drive results. I am pleased that our schools are making progress, that more students are getting quality instruction, and more families are choosing to take advantage of it,”** said Allison Perz, Executive Director of OCCS. **“We are also proud to work with such a dedicated collection of professionals who are working hard in our schools across the state. Our students face some of the most difficult learning and life situations imaginable, and they are, in increasing numbers, performing better every year in the classroom. This is the vision of charter schools in Ohio, and we are glad to see results like these.”**

Of the 49 OCCS schools, located around the state, 10 improved their designations, while 20 retained the same designations. Nine schools declined in their performance with the balance either not rated or receiving a rating for the first time this year resulting in no comparison to last year.

The report also shows that OCCS more than doubled the number of schools that met the federal AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) requirement, now at nine schools, up from four last year. The AYP is a federal academic measurement established by the No Child Left Behind legislation passed during the first term of President George W. Bush that becomes increasingly more difficult for schools to meet with each passing year. The standard to meet AYP requires that an increasing percentage of students at a given school comply with its standards with each passing year.