

# February 2017 Progress Report

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**Cleveland**  
**Transformation**  
**Alliance**

**Quality Schools for All Children**

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A progress report to the community on the implementation and impact of *Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools*

## The Cleveland Transformation Alliance

The Cleveland Transformation Alliance is a public-private partnership created through *Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools*, our city's plan to ensure every student in the city attends an excellent school and every neighborhood has a multitude of great schools from which families can choose. We bring together a broad group of stakeholders working to reinvent public education in our city.

The state legislation that supports the Cleveland Plan, House Bill 525, outlines four roles for the Transformation Alliance:

Ensure fidelity to the Cleveland Plan

Assess the quality of all district and charter schools in Cleveland

Communicate to parents about quality school choices

Monitor charter sector growth and quality

Our goal with this report is to give the Cleveland community and other stakeholders a deeper understanding of the progress our schools are making.



In September 2016, we released our second annual report on the Cleveland Plan. In that report, we assessed progress toward meeting the Cleveland Plan’s goals in two ways: by tracking external measures of school performance and by evaluating implementation of recommendations from our 2015 report. That report was based on 2014-15 school year data, which was released by the Ohio Department of Education in March 2016, six months later than planned.

In an effort to get back on schedule with state reporting, we are issuing this third annual report in abbreviated form. This update includes analysis of: preschool and

early education; district and charter student enrollment; Performance Index data, which measures how students do on state tests; Value-Added data, the state’s measure of year-to-year academic growth; high school graduation rates; and college and career readiness data.

The K-12 sections of this report are based on 2015-16 school year data released by the Ohio Department of Education in September 2016. Assessing progress for K-12 schools over the past three years has proven a difficult task. The state’s 2015-16 school year data are based on the third new state test in three years. During that time, the state also changed the scores students need to meet to be considered proficient.

Over the past year in particular, both district and charter schools have seen large swings in performance that could not be readily explained. Nevertheless, the most recent data paint a decidedly mixed picture of how our schools are performing.

In this report, data for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, Performance Index and Value-Added are presented in five categories.

**1. Public schools statewide:**

All district and charter schools in the state of Ohio



**2. All public schools in Cleveland:**

All district and charter schools within CMSD’s boundaries



**3. CMSD schools:**

Cleveland Metropolitan School District schools



**4. All charter schools in Cleveland:**

Charter schools within CMSD boundaries



**5. CMSD’s partnering charter schools:**

The 17 schools that were sponsored by or had a formal partnership with CMSD during the 2015-16 school year





# Early Childhood Education

## Preschool

Because a quality preschool experience is essential to ensuring later academic success, the Cleveland Plan calls for an increase in the number of children enrolled in high-quality preschools, defined as those achieving a rating of at least three stars on Ohio's five-star Step Up to Quality rating system. The data in this section are provided by PRE4CLE, Cleveland's plan to offer a high-quality preschool experience to all three- and four-year-olds in the city.

As of November of 2016, there were 106 high-quality preschool programs in Cleveland, an increase of 31 sites since 2014, both within and outside the district. Since PRE4CLE began in 2014, 2,350 high-quality preschool seats have been created in Cleveland. This expansion has come from both the addition of new high-quality seats and higher ratings for existing seats.



Increase Since 2014

31

New High Quality Sites

Increase Since 2014

2,350

New High Quality Seats

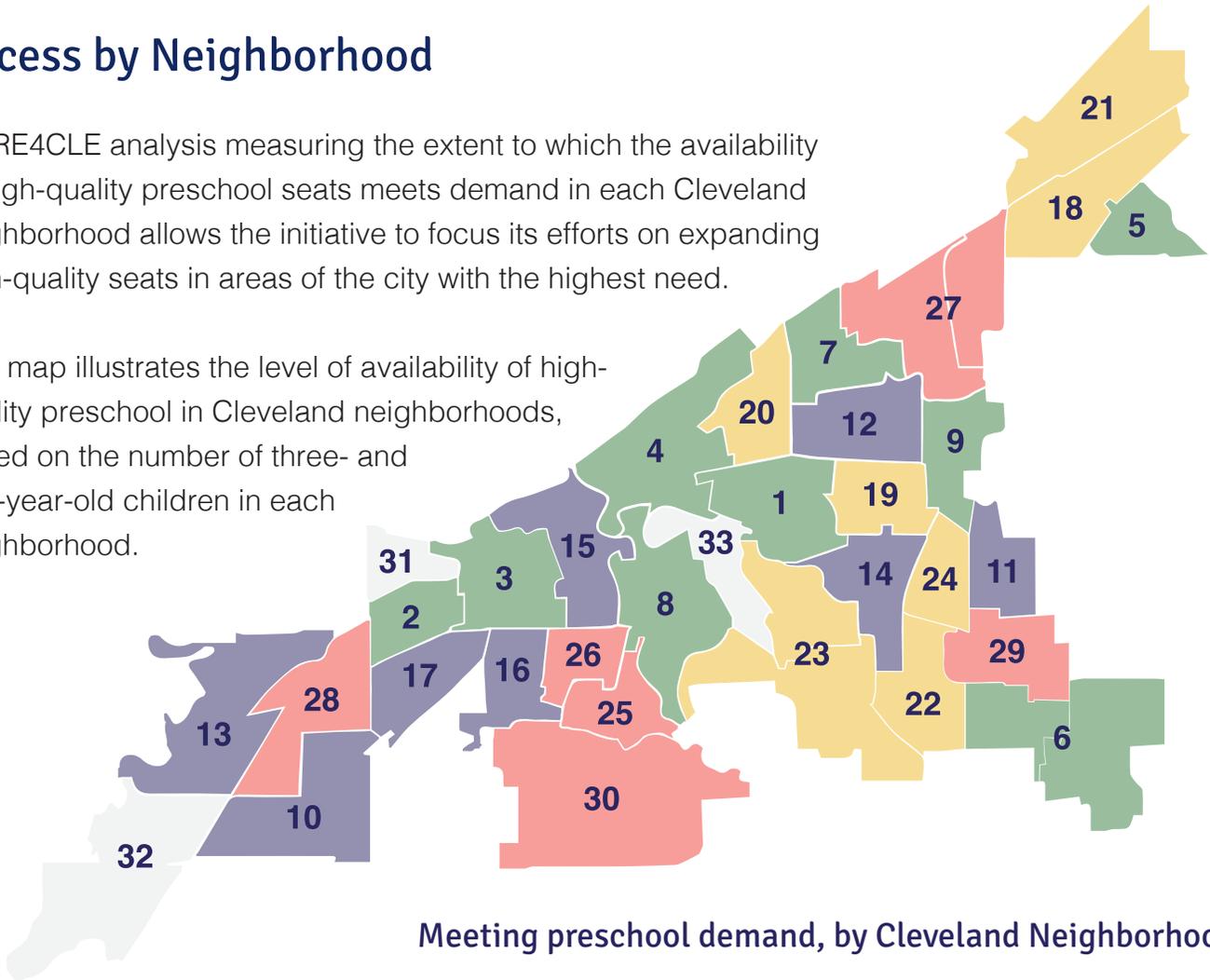
## Expansion within the Cleveland Metropolitan School District

Since the 2014-15 school year, CMSD added 480 high-quality preschool seats, both for typically developing children and those with special education needs. Beginning in July 2014, the school district has been able to participate in Step Up to Quality. Since then, 21 CMSD sites have been given a five-star rating.

## Access by Neighborhood

A PRE4CLE analysis measuring the extent to which the availability of high-quality preschool seats meets demand in each Cleveland neighborhood allows the initiative to focus its efforts on expanding high-quality seats in areas of the city with the highest need.

This map illustrates the level of availability of high-quality preschool in Cleveland neighborhoods, based on the number of three- and four-year-old children in each neighborhood.



Meeting preschool demand, by Cleveland Neighborhood

High Availability	Moderate Availability	Low Availability	Significant Need
High-quality preschool demand met	At least 50% of demand met	At least 25% of demand met	Less than 25% of demand met
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central</li> <li>2. Cudell</li> <li>3. Detroit-Shoreway</li> <li>4. Downtown</li> <li>5. Euclid-Green</li> <li>6. Lee-Harvard</li> <li>7. St. Clair-Superior</li> <li>8. Tremont</li> <li>9. University Circle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Bellaire-Puritas</li> <li>11. Buckeye-Shaker</li> <li>12. Hough</li> <li>13. Kamm's Corners</li> <li>14. Kinsman</li> <li>15. Ohio City</li> <li>16. Stockyards</li> <li>17. West Boulevard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Collinwood-Nottingham</li> <li>19. Fairfax</li> <li>20. Goodrich-Kirtland Park</li> <li>21. Northshore-Collinwood (North Collinwood)</li> <li>22. Union Miles</li> <li>23. Broadway-Slavic Village</li> <li>24. Buckeye-Woodhill</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25. Brooklyn Centre</li> <li>26. Clark-Fulton</li> <li>27. Glenville</li> <li>28. Jefferson</li> <li>29. Mount Pleasant</li> <li>30. Old Brooklyn</li> </ul>
			<b>No Data Available</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31. Edgewater</li> <li>32. Hopkins</li> <li>33. Cuyahoga Valley</li> </ul>



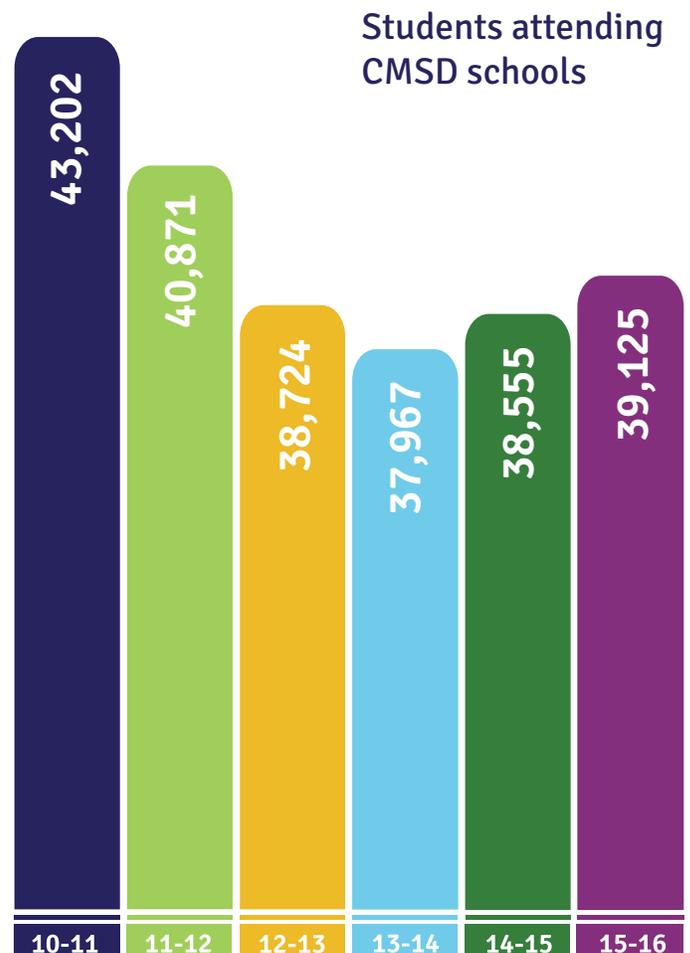
# PreK-12 Enrollment in Cleveland

## Cleveland Metropolitan School District Enrollment

The 2015-16 school year saw the second consecutive enrollment gain for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, with 39,125 students enrolled in district schools, up from 38,555 in 2014-15 and 37,967 in 2013-14. These gains suggest that the district has stopped its decades-long enrollment decline. Over the same period of time, the number of non-CMSD resident students enrolled in district schools has declined slightly, to 1,663 in 2015-16 from 1,819 in 2010-11. This decline may in part reflect a clarified policy by the Cleveland Board of Education that ensures CMSD residents have first choice at CMSD schools.



These gains suggest that the district has stopped its decades-long enrollment decline.

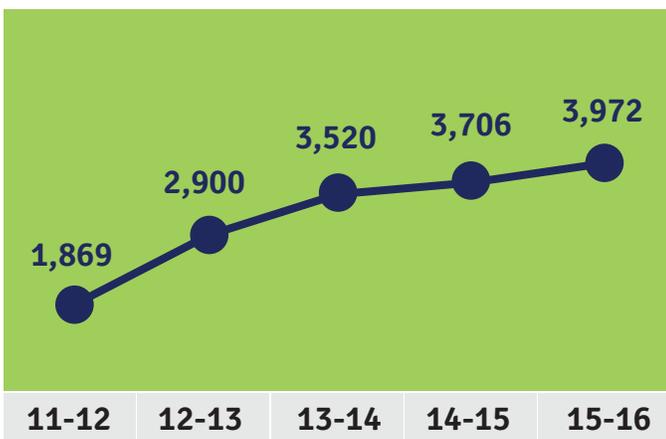




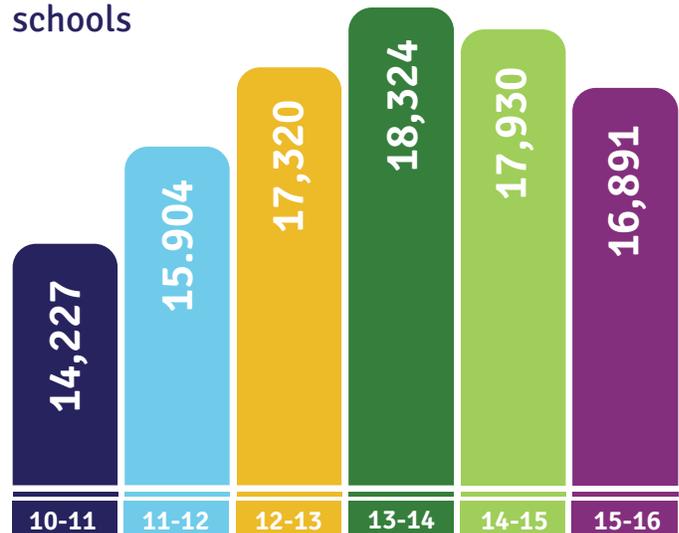
## Charter Schools

Approximately 16,891 children living within CMSD boundaries attended charter schools in 2015-16, according to the Ohio Department of Education. This is a decline from the 17,960 CMSD-resident students who attended charter schools in 2014-15 and the 18,324 who attended charter schools in 2013-14. During this period 15 Cleveland charter schools have closed, most of which were struggling academically. Changes in how the state counts enrollment at online charter schools also may explain part of this enrollment decrease.

### Enrollment growth, CMSD partnering charter schools



### CMSD residents attending charter schools

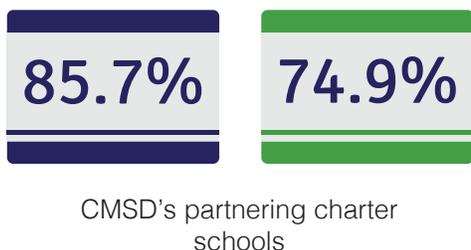
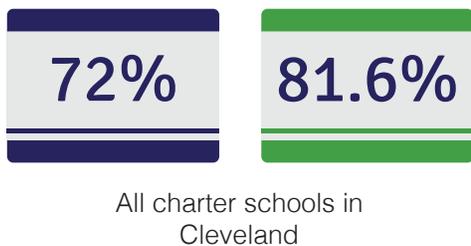
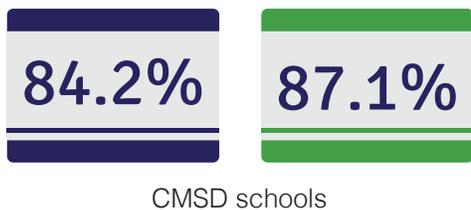
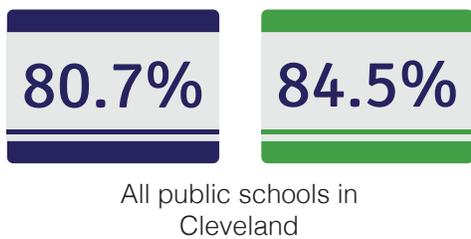
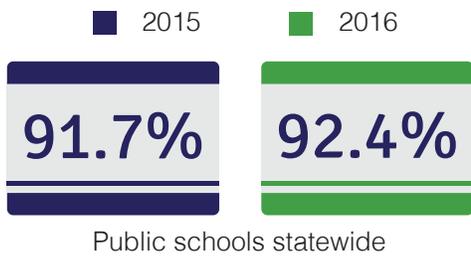


While overall enrollment of CMSD-resident students in charter schools has dropped since the 2013-14 school year, the number of CMSD residents in the 17 charter schools that were sponsored by or had formal partnership agreements with CMSD (partnering charters) increased to 3,972 during 2015-16 from 1,869 in 2010-11. This increase has been largely due to the addition of new partnering charter schools, which tend to have a stronger track record than Cleveland charters as a whole.



# Student Achievement

## Percentage of Students Meeting Fourth Grade Promotion Requirements



## Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee was implemented to help identify students from kindergarten through 3rd grade, in both district and charter schools, who are behind in reading. It tracks the percentage of children meeting requirements for promotion to 4th grade.

Overall, a substantially lower percentage of students attending Cleveland's public schools, both district and charter, are meeting 4th-grade promotion requirements compared to students in Ohio. But the average for students attending all public schools in Cleveland, both district and charter, rose nearly four percentage points from 2015 to 2016, while the Ohio average rose less than one point.

In 2016, the average for CMSD students was higher than the average for both charter schools as a whole and for CMSD's 17 partnering charter schools. Partnering charter schools saw the only drop among Cleveland's public schools.



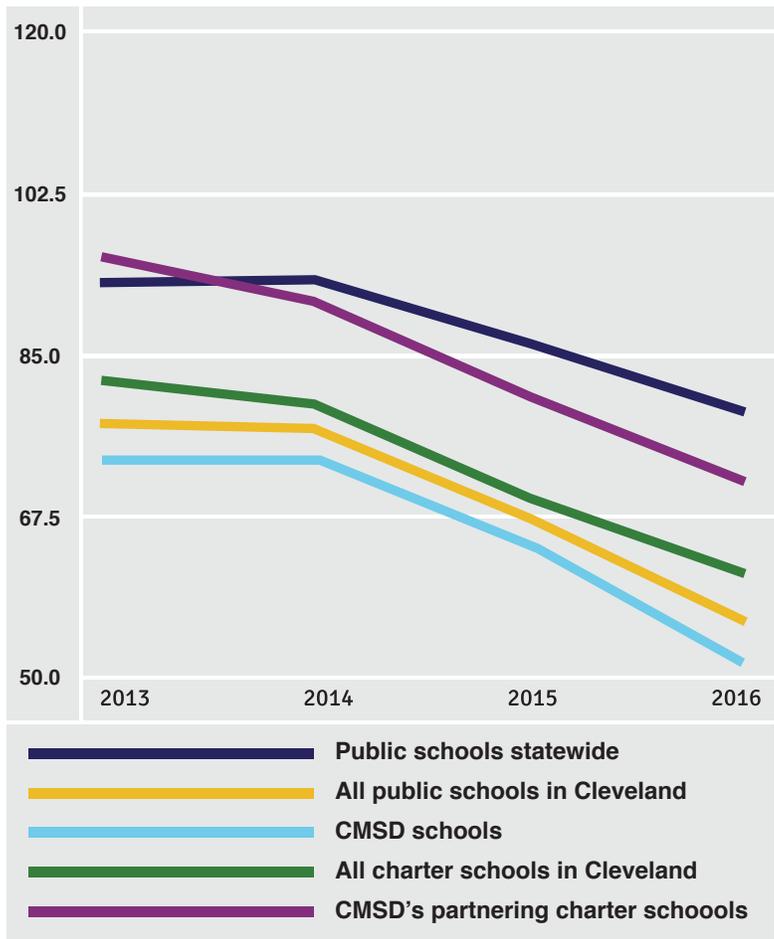
## Performance Index

Ohio's Performance Index measures how students perform on the state's standardized tests. Schools receive points for every level of achievement, with more points awarded for higher student scores. A Performance Index of 120 is the highest score a school or district can receive.

Statewide, Performance Index scores have dropped dramatically since Ohio put in place more rigorous standards for learning and used new tests for each of the past three years. In order to get a sense of how Cleveland schools as a whole are performing, we compared the city's average scores with the statewide average to assess whether or not Cleveland has improved relative to schools statewide.

Both the average Performance Index score statewide and the average for all Cleveland schools, district and charter, dropped substantially since the 2012-13 school year, but with a larger decrease for Cleveland. Cleveland's schools dropped 21.9 points since 2013, compared to a statewide drop of 14.2 points.

Cleveland schools vs. statewide average



Broken into separate categories, the average Performance Index score for CMSD schools fell 22.3 points from 2013 to 2016. The average for all Cleveland charters fell 21.5 points, while the average for CMSD's partnering charter schools fell 24.8 points.



# Academic Progress

## Value Added

Ohio's Value-Added Student Growth Measure is designed to assess how much academic progress students have made over the course of the school year.

Value-Added scores between -1.0 and 1.0 are supposed to indicate that students have shown one year of academic growth over the course of the year; scores above 1.0 suggest more than a year's growth, while scores below -1.0 suggest less than a year's growth.

As noted in the previous section, changes to the state's accountability system have resulted in an across-the-board drop of Performance Index scores statewide. Value-Added scores at the individual school level, however, have seen large swings over the past three years, with schools scoring very high one year and very low the next. These dramatic fluctuations call into question the reliability of the data.

Despite our concerns about reliability and comparability, shared by educators around the state, our analysis seeks to provide a sense of how Cleveland schools are doing relative to the state as a whole, since students are taking the same tests.

Ohio's average Value-Added score showed a one-year drop in 2015, followed by an increase



in 2016. During the same period, Cleveland's average, which includes all district and charter schools, has dropped dramatically, with the steepest decline in 2016. The other categories of schools fell as well. CMSD's score climbed slightly until 2015, then plummeted in 2016. Cleveland charter schools as a whole had their biggest decrease in 2015, followed by a sharp climb in 2016, while CMSD's partnering charter schools started well above the other schools in 2013, but have dropped steadily to just above the state average in 2016.

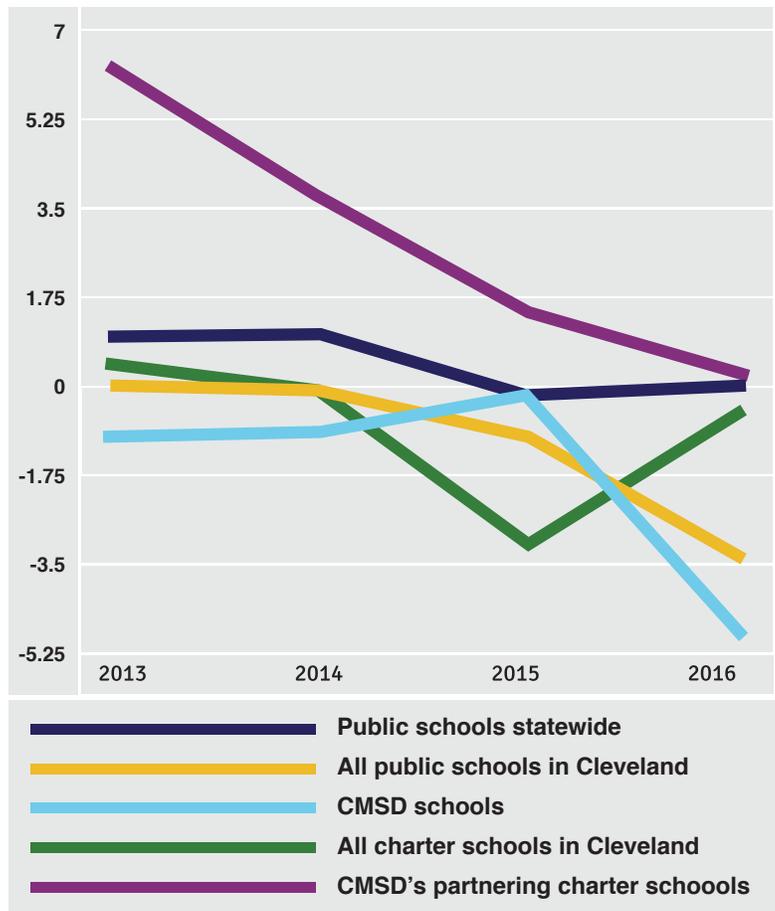
While the results from the 2015-16 school year are concerning, it is not clear that the recent variations mean Cleveland students are learning less. In fact, it is quite likely that these trends are the results of changes to the state's accountability system.

## Changes to Ohio's learning standards and tests

In 2010, the Ohio Board of Education put in place new academic standards for math, English, science and social studies. These standards lay out what students are expected to learn each year. Ohio's New Learning standards, designed to be more challenging than previous standards, incorporated Common Core standards developed jointly by groups representing more than 40 states.



## Value-Added: Cleveland district and charter schools vs. statewide average



Since 2013, Ohio has changed three times the standardized math and English tests it requires public school students to take.

- 2013-14 – The state uses new Ohio Achievement Assessments, fully incorporating new standards for the first time.
- 2014-15 – As part of a group of states, Ohio uses tests developed by the national Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).
- 2015-16 – A statewide backlash against PARCC prompts the state to discard the 2014-15 tests and use new ones developed by the American Institutes for Research.



# High School Graduation

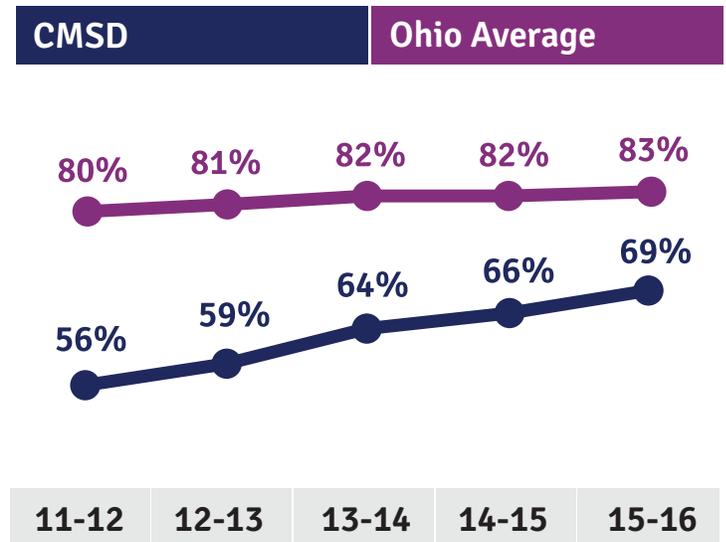
## Cleveland Metropolitan School District

The steady increase in CMSD’s high school graduation rate remains one of the most encouraging signs of progress in Cleveland. The district’s four-year rate has continued to improve, rising to 69 percent of students for the class of 2015, up each year since 2011, when the graduation rate was 56 percent.

It’s also worth noting that, since 2010, CMSD’s graduation rate has been rising faster than that of any other urban district in Ohio, and that CMSD has narrowed the gap between its rate and the state average by 10 percentage points.

Nevertheless, CMSD continues to fall well short of its goal of 100 percent high school graduation, and the fact that the district’s graduation rate remains well below the state average is cause for concern and continued action. Graduating more students matters because a high school diploma is a minimum requirement for higher-paying jobs and post-secondary training and education.

Four-year graduation rates



## Charter Schools

The only traditional bricks-and-mortar charter high school located within CMSD boundaries reporting multiple years of graduation data was Horizon Science Academy of Cleveland, which has seen a steadily rising rate, graduating 88 percent of the students in its class of 2015, up from 76 percent in 2011. The only other traditional charter high school with graduation data was Northeast Ohio College Preparatory School, which graduated 67 percent of its class of 2015; ODE did not report graduation data for the school in previous years.



In addition to graduation rates, measures provided by the Higher Education Compact of Greater Cleveland give a sense of how well CMSD students are prepared for college and career.

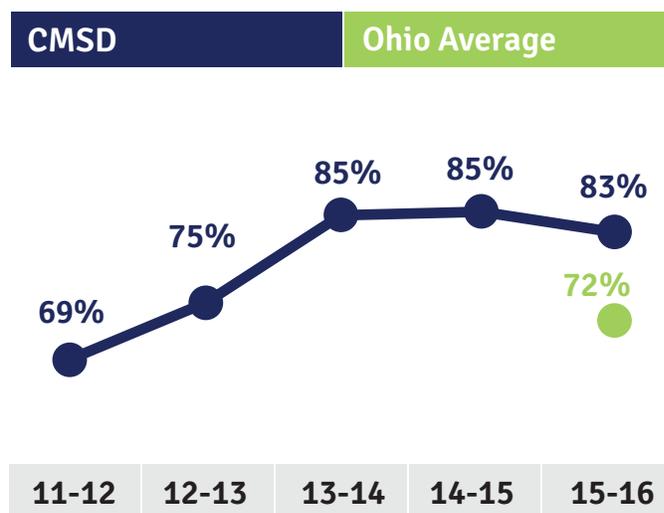
## ACT College Entrance Exam

The average scores for CMSD students who took the ACT college entrance exam continued to trend upward, to 16.8 for the class of 2016 from 16.6 in 2012. The percentage of CMSD graduates taking the ACT has risen since 2012. This positive trend – a low but rising average score even as participation has increased – stands in contrast to what is happening at the national level, where increased participation has led to a drop in the average score.

Similarly, while Ohio's average ACT score remains substantially higher than CMSD's, at 22.5 in 2016, Ohio's participation rate was only 72 percent in 2016, compared to 83 percent for CMSD.



### CMSD graduates taking the ACT



## Remediation

Because students are better prepared for college and career, the need for CMSD graduates to take remediation courses has been dropping. At the nine four-year colleges that are part of the Higher Education Compact and that reported data, the number of students placed in remedial courses dropped 14 percent from 2012 to 2015.

Remedial coursework placement at Cuyahoga Community College, the Compact's only two-year partner institution, has continued to drop, to 45 percent (both English and math) in the fall of 2016 from 62 percent in 2014.



# Conclusion

This data snapshot reveals mixed results. On the positive side, increasing enrollment for CMSD and its charter partners is encouraging, as are rising graduation rates and the indicators that show students are being better prepared for college and career. While Cleveland's 3rd-grade students lag behind their peers around Ohio, the increasing percentage meeting 4th-grade promotion requirements is promising. The expansion of high-quality preschool seats also represents progress that should boost student achievement in the future.

Other indicators suggest that the work to transform our public schools is not producing the results we need. Given the continually changing state accountability system, it is hard to know whether Cleveland's drop in Performance Index and Value-Added scores means decreased learning or is simply a result of new standards and tests. Nevertheless, we cannot ignore signs that Cleveland students are not keeping pace with students around the state either in terms of their academic performance or their year-to-year academic growth.

As we stated in our 2016 Cleveland Plan Progress Report, we are encouraged that the work that is happening in Cleveland schools is creating higher-quality learning environments for students, and that it is aligned to the vision outlined in *Cleveland's Plan for Transforming Schools*. Cleveland voters endorsed that



vision by approving the November 2012 school operating levy, and have continued their support by convincingly passing the levy renewal in November 2016. This critical funding will allow both CMSD and its partner charter schools to use these local tax dollars to sustain school improvement.

The Transformation Alliance remains committed to carrying out its role as part of the Cleveland Plan, with the overarching mission of ensuring that all Cleveland children attend quality schools and that every neighborhood has great schools from which families can choose. We also confirm our commitment to the community to continue reporting on the implementation and impact of our collective efforts to reinvent public education in Cleveland.

To that end, in the fall of 2017 we plan to release our next full report, which will include both our analysis of state data and our assessment of ongoing efforts to improve district and charter schools in Cleveland.

## Report Committee

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**Shana Marbury, Chair**

General Counsel and Vice  
President, Strategic Initiatives  
and Research  
Greater Cleveland Partnership

**Eric Gordon**

Chief Executive Officer  
Cleveland Metropolitan School  
District

**Monyka Price**

Chief of Education  
City of Cleveland

**Victor Ruiz**

Executive Director  
Esperanza, Inc.

**Deborah Rutledge**

Chief Operating Officer  
Rutledge Group, Inc.

**Helen Williams**

Program Director for Education  
Cleveland Foundation

## Report Contributors

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**Mark Baumgartner**

Director of Professional Issues  
Cleveland Teachers Union

**Nicholas D'Amico**

Executive Director of School  
Performance  
Cleveland Metropolitan School  
District

**Ann Mullin**

Senior Program Officer  
The George Gund Foundation

**Erin Randel**

Parent  
Tremont Montessori School

**Alan Rosskamm**

Chief Executive Officer  
Breakthrough Schools

**Piet van Lier**

Executive Director  
Cleveland Transformation  
Alliance

**Paul Sobota**

Photography

**Heather Lenz**

Presentation

**Thomas Fox**

Design

For more information on PRE4CLE,  
Cleveland's plan to offer a high-quality  
preschool experience to all three- and  
four-year olds in the city, visit  
[pre4cle.org](http://pre4cle.org)

For more information on the Higher  
Education Compact of Greater  
Cleveland, a pledge from the community  
and its leadership to remove obstacles  
that prevent Cleveland youth from going  
to and succeeding in college, visit  
[highereducationcompact.org](http://highereducationcompact.org)

For more information on the Cleveland  
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[clevelandta.org](http://clevelandta.org)



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