

## UPDATE! Concept Schools In Ohio Start School Year With Big Academic Gains

**SEPTEMBER 23, 2011** - Amidst education reform discussions and efforts, a group of 19 charter schools managed by a not-for-profit management organization, Concept Schools, begin their new school year with an impressive record of success marked by the Ohio Department of Education's official report card on school performance.

The recently released report card covering Ohio's charter schools showed that many of the Concept managed Horizon Science Academies and Noble Academies outperformed significant number of charter schools and traditional public schools in the state, with 84 percent of Concept's Ohio schools - 16 of 19 schools - ranking in the category of continuous improvement or better. Statewide, just 50 percent of Ohio's 339 charter schools won such a ranking.

Twenty-one percent, or four of Concept's 19 schools won the ranking of Excellent, the highest ranking under the Ohio Department of Education's report card scale, while 31 percent, or six of Concept's 19 schools, won a ranking of Effective.

<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Concept Schools -- %</b>	<b>Statewide Ohio -- %</b>
<b>Excellent</b>	4 of 19 schools -- 21%	30 of 339 schools -- 9%
<b>Effective</b>	6 of 19 schools -- 31%	40 of 339 schools -- 12%
<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	6 of 19 schools -- 31%	98 of 339 schools -- 29%
<b>Academic Watch</b>	2 of 19 schools -- 11%	57 of 339 schools -- 17%
<b>Academic Emergency</b>	1 of 19 schools -- 5%	71 of 339 schools -- 21%

"We are very pleased with the progress that our Ohio schools have shown with the strong performance on the Ohio Department of Education report card," said Concept Schools Vice President Salim Ucan. "Yet we are not satisfied with those results. We have very high standards at Concept Schools, and we will not rest until every one of our schools is performing at its maximum potential."

Concept is unique in the world of charter schools because every one of its students graduates from high school, and nearly every one of its students graduating from high school goes on to college. The college preparatory curriculum not only focuses on math, science, and technology, but also ensures all students master state-required core education classes.

Concept's Ohio schools consist of 5,256 students located in the following cities: Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Lorain, Toledo, and Youngstown. With about 500 academic staff and 100 support staff, our Ohio team looks forward to another successful year.