

***Leadership Conference on
Civil Rights***



***Characteristics of Schools
That Close Achievement Gaps***

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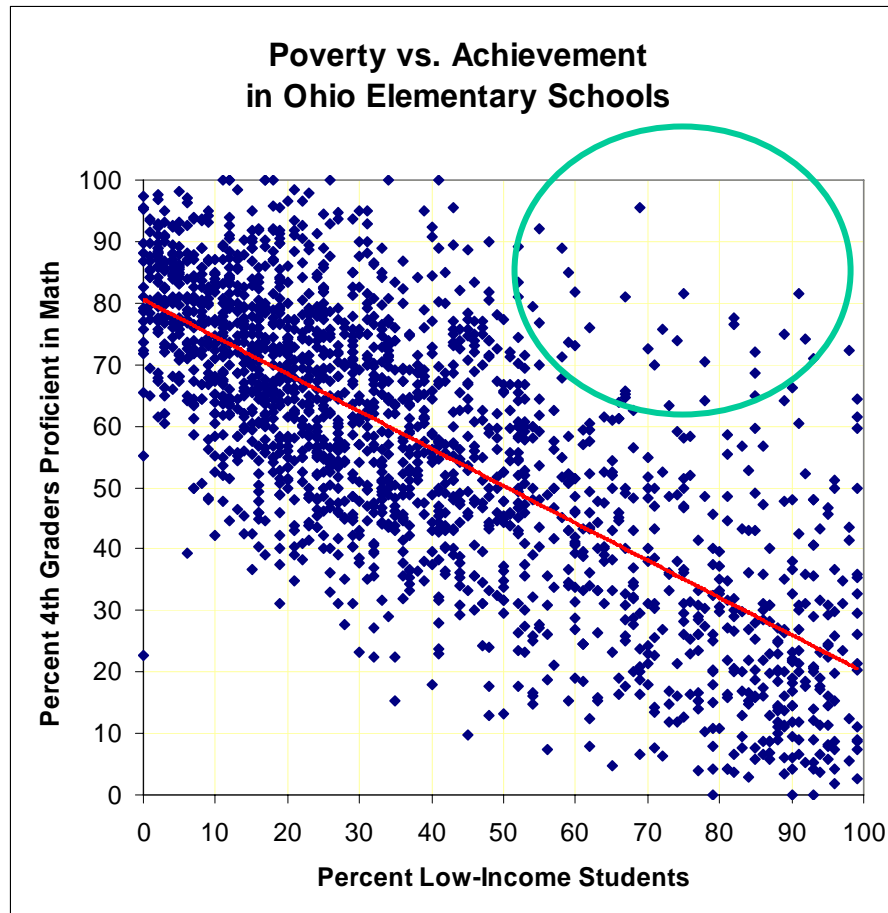
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http://www.ode.state.oh.us/achievement_gaps

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Some Ohio Schools Are Closing the Gap



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102 Schools of Promise

- Meet adequate yearly progress
- +75% proficient in reading or math (85% for 10th grade)
- +75% of each racial/ethnic group proficient in reading or math (85% for 10th grade)
- +75% of economically disadvantaged students proficient in reading or math (85% for 10th grade)
- +73.5% graduation rate
- +40% of students meet low-income criteria
- 2 years of strong achievement
- Criteria apply to all student groups w/ 5 or more test takers

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Characteristics of Schools that Close Achievement Gaps

- Deliver rigorous instruction aligned to standards
- Provide leadership that results in continuous instructional improvement
- Design instruction to ensure every student's success
- Engage parents and community
- Create a culture in which individuals feel valued

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Delivering Rigorous Instruction

- These schools have the same ambitious academic goals pursued by excellent schools that serve affluent students.
- Strong emphasis is placed on literacy and numeracy skills integrated throughout a rich, full curriculum.
- Educators in these schools assume that their students can and will excel.



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Providing Leadership to Ensure Instructional Improvement

- Educators in these schools feel supported by their leaders as they work to improve instruction.
- Leaders spend substantial time in classrooms working with teachers on instructional issues.
- Educators continuously collaborate with each other to support the improvement of their teaching. They use data to focus their collaboration on student work.

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Designing Instruction for Every Student's Success

- There is a continuous process of adapting instruction until evidence of student learning is confirmed.
- Learning is structured in ways that make the unfamiliar familiar, building upon the prior knowledge, experience, culture, language, and learning styles of students.

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Engaging Parents & Community

- The school reaches out to and engages parents/ caretakers/community as partners in meeting student needs and teaching concepts and skills.
- There is a school culture (in contrast to merely school activities) that promotes positive relationships between school and home.
- The school reaches out in ways that give parents hope.

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Creating a Culture in Which Individuals Feel Valued

- Students acquire substantial evidence of their ability to succeed academically. Learning is celebrated often.
- Learning becomes fun and exciting for students.
- The school becomes a place where everyone (students, teachers, parents, community members) feels like they belong. Everyone feels valued as part of the school community.