



The Right Plan. Right Now. Cleveland Schools.

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- Over 80% of good jobs demand postsecondary education.
- Our children, homes and future jobs depend on a realistic plan for the schools to get better results.
- Mayor Jackson, school leaders, union leaders, teachers, parents, businesses, foundations, charter schools, the Governor and state legislature have agreed on the right plan for change.
- Similar plans are doing well for children in Boston, Baltimore and elsewhere.
- We need now as a community to take the next step to change Cleveland's future and provide the resources needed to fund the right plan for Cleveland schools.

# The Right Plan. Right Now. Cleveland Schools.

If we did not:

- believe deeply in the plan;
- know the current educational crisis too well; and,
- know the city's future depends on better education;

We would not:

- have created the plan; and,
- be seeking the voters' significant support of the plan.

# CMSD has improved in the 16 years since the last Operating Levy was approved

- More students are graduating and going to college.

Graduation Rate in 1995-1996 = 39.3%      Graduation Rate in 2009-10 = 62.8%

- CMSD has opened 14 high quality schools, sponsored six charter schools, and closed and replaced several failing schools, and more new schools will open in the fall.

- More CMSD Schools are earning top state ratings.

23% of CMSD schools earned the top two ratings on the 2010-11 Ohio report card, compared to only 9% four years earlier.

42% of CMSD schools earned a rating of Continuous Improvement (C) or higher on the 2010-11 Ohio report card, compared to only 25% four years earlier.

**There have been incremental gains, but without new resources major improvement is impossible**

# The District, Teachers, and Staff Have Made Deep Cuts and Many Sacrifices

- In the last two years, the district has cut more than \$114 million.
- 565 teachers and staff were cut at the end of this year alone.
- From FY2011-2013, CMSD's state funding was cut by \$55 million and CMSD's federal funding was cut by \$84 million, including stimulus funding.
- All staff (central office, principals, teachers, and support staff) have had pay cuts over the last three years.
- CMSD has received "unqualified opinions" (best ratings) from state auditors on our financial statements for the last 5 fiscal years (2007-2011).

**We cannot continue to cut our way to either financial stability and academic success and we need both**

# The Right Plan. Right Now. The Realistic Road to Better Schools

The Cleveland Plan and levy commitment will allow us to:

1. Attract and retain excellent teachers and leaders.
2. Replace failing schools with new, high quality ones.
3. Increase student graduation in every neighborhood.
4. Make sure all graduates are college, career and/or workforce ready.
5. Provide disciplined classroom environments where students learn every day
6. Provide real world experiences in local businesses.
7. Add 21<sup>st</sup> Century materials, textbooks, computers and technologies to prepare students for college and good jobs.
8. Make the school year longer for students who need it most.
9. Base teacher and principal pay more on performance.
10. Help fund high performing charter schools with guaranteed accountability.
11. Produce results quickly and report regularly to the community.

## An Accountable, Significant Levy Request

- After deep cost cutting and sixteen years with no new operating levy, a new levy is needed now.
- A **15 mill levy** is needed to deliver the results Cleveland needs.
- Approximately half of CMSD property taxes are paid by businesses.
- The cost is \$4.42 per week or 63¢ per day on a \$50,000 property.
- Of the 15 mill levy, **1 mill** will be set aside for partnering community schools (charter schools).
- To guarantee action and accountability to the public, the levy will expire in **4 years** unless it is renewed or replaced by voters.

# An Accountable, Significant Levy Request

- We recognize this is a serious investment.
- It is essential to protect our children, our homes, and our economy.
- If we want our children to succeed, our children must be ready for college and the workforce.
- We can't afford to pass a smaller levy and do the job halfway.

**We need the community's help and investment in the right plan to help save our schools and city**

## Failure is Not an Option

➤ If the levy fails:

- the schools will face a \$50 million deficit next year.
- the district will have to cut another 700-800 teachers and staff.
- the district will go into fiscal oversight and could be taken over by the State and run at minimum standards.

➤ This may well be our best hope to save our children, our schools, and our community's future.

**We must pass this levy and implement The Right Plan, Right Now, in Cleveland's Schools**



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