

Looking At The ISSUES

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Strickland's 2008 State of the State Address Calls for Sweeping Changes in Ohio Education

Ohio's future does not belong to those who lack courage. –
Governor Ted Strickland

On Wednesday February 6th, Ohio Governor Ted Strickland in his 2008 *State of the State Address*¹ called for far-reaching changes in Ohio's education system. These changes, if implemented by the legislature, will substantially alter both college access and the management of the Ohio Department of Education, helping to push Ohio towards a more integrated P-16 approach. Changes called for by the governor are as follows:

- *Building on the existing Post Secondary Enrollment Options plan, today I am announcing that I have directed the Chancellor to give every twelfth grader who meets the academic requirements a choice of spending their senior year in their home high school, or spending it on a University System of Ohio campus. Tuition for the year will be free.*

Plans are to begin enrolling students in this option for the upcoming school year. Noting that former Governor James Rhodes had once launched a grand project to have a community, regional or technical college close to every Ohioan, Strickland took this vision one step further.

- *Today I'm announcing that the ten-year plan for the University System of Ohio will guarantee that a high quality associate and bachelor's degree in the academic fields necessary to land a good job will be available on a campus within thirty miles of every Ohioan.*

Strickland also called for sweeping changes in the oversight of K-12 education.

- *The governor and the legislature are responsible for the success of our schools. The voters will rightly hold us accountable for the education results we produce. Therefore, we should have authority over the management of the Department of Education. Today I am calling for the creation of a new position: the director of the Department of Education. This office would be appointed by the governor, subject to approval by the Senate.*

Under this plan, the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools, would still remain in place. However, their role would be advisory and they would also be subject to additional roles as determined by the director.

In The News

Both State Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman and Chancellor Eric Fingerhut have issued statements on the education provisions in the State of the State Address. Dr. Zelman's statement may be found at <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and Mr. Fingerhut's at <http://regents.ohio.gov>.

Looking At The Week

State Superintendent Susan Tave Zelman visited the Canton City Schools on Thursday. Members of the Canton Regional Chamber's Education Committee were invited by Canton Superintendent Michele Evans-Gardell to a luncheon with Dr. Zelman. Dr. Adrienne O'Neill and Dr. Joe Rochford attended.

¹ A full copy of the address may be found at: <http://www.governor.ohio.gov/>

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