

Looking At The ISSUES

August 25, 2006

Stark County Graduation Rates Increase in 11 Districts

In 2001 the Stark County School Districts set a “Big Hairy Audacious Goal” of graduating 100%. Graduation rates are moving upward in Stark County and in some districts, do almost reach the 100% level. As mentioned in a previous edition of ISSUES, national reports take issue with how graduation rates are calculated in the states. However, it is the position of the Stark Education Partnership that since the State of Ohio has used the same calculation for the years listed below (leaver rate from grades 9 to 12) it is quite acceptable to say that the trend of graduation rates in Stark County is upward.

District	2004-05 Final Graduation Rate	2003-04 Graduation Rate	2002-03 Graduation Rate
Alliance	81.9%	80.3%	86.8%
Canton City	72.4%	67.3%	54.1%
Canton Local	98.3%	97.3%	97.8%
Fairless	94.9%	96.2%	89.3%
Jackson	98.6%	96.8%	95.3%
Lake	99.2%	98.1%	96.9%
Louisville	96.4%	94.5%	94.7%
Marlington	96.8%	96.5%	94.8%
Massillon	87.5%	88.9%	88.9%
Minerva	92.7%	89.3%	87.5%
North Canton	99.8%	98.5%	97.9%
Northwest	97.8%	98.9%	100%
Osnaburg	96.8%	91.3%	85.7%
Perry	96%	96.5%	99.1%
Plain Local	95%	96%	95.2%
Sandy Valley	93.9%	95.5%	93.8%
Tuslaw	96.3%	96.1%	87%

Key: **Yellow** = Improvement

Source: Ohio Department of Education (<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/reportcard/>)

Mount Union & Malone Named Best Colleges

Congratulations to Mount Union and Malone Colleges for being named in News & World Report's annual America's Best College edition. According to the magazine, Mount Union ranked 12th in the top 20 comprehensive colleges in the Midwest and also is ranked seventh in the magazine's "Great Schools Great Values" section. The magazine recognized for a second consecutive year Malone for its graduate programs. The Canton college was ranked 55th out of 142 colleges in the Midwest region under the master's degree category.

Looking At The Week

Joe Rochford attended an Early College HS KnowledgeWorks Coaches meeting in Columbus on August 21 and August 22, 2006. Dr. Rochford serves as an unpaid internal coach for Early College HS at Timken Campus.

Adrienne O'Neill and Joe Rochford attended a planning meeting for the newly awarded JAGS grant at Choices HS on August 24, 2006. The Stark Education Partnership is a partner in this grant and will do the outside evaluation of the project.