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To Friends & Supporters of CMSD:

This morning, the Ohio Department of Education released report cards for each Ohio school and district. As you might expect, the headline for CMSD is that we have not yet met Ohio's learning standards for our students.

While we are far from where we need to be, there are several pieces of positive news on our report card that I want to share:

- Our K-3 literacy score increased by 13.70 percent over the prior year, raising us from an F to a C on this indicator. This means that more than twice as many K-3 students moved from off-track to on-track compared to the year before.
- In grades 4 through 8, we saw gains in English and math exams in nearly every grade. In several of those grades, our gains were larger than estimated state averages. While that doesn't mean that our students are yet performing at the same level as their statewide peers, it does mean we are making some progress in closing that important gap.
- In our high schools, we have increased our graduation rate by another 2.8 percent to a new District record high of 71.9 percent. While this is still an F on the state report card, this represents a 19.7 percent increase in our graduation rate in just six years.

While there are positive gains of which we can be proud, our report card also has some very sobering news:

- Only 79.6 percent of our third grade students met the promotion requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This is a 5.7 percent decrease from the prior year. While I realize that the state increased the passing score by 10 points, which impacted promotion statewide, all of us know that being a sound, competent reader by third grade is vital for the future success of every child, and it is imperative that we aggressively address and improve this indicator in the year ahead.
- We earned an F in our Value-Added scores in each measured category – Students with Disabilities, Lowest 20 percent, Gifted and Overall. While I realize Value-Added remains an elusive measure, it is nonetheless considered the state's best measure of how much growth our students achieved compared to their peers statewide. Fs indicate that, in general, our students didn't grow as much on average as their state peers.
- Our graduation rate is still far below the state standard, even with our progress. And this year we fully implemented the 2018 requirements, which increase our challenge.

While I am disappointed with the performance that was reported today, I remain confident that we are moving in a direction that can take our gains to scale for all our kids.

As I have stressed to our educators, who are as committed as I am to making that happen, it has probably never been more important nor more urgent to move aggressively forward than it is today. Without our committed educators working cooperatively with our supportive Cleveland community to positively impact the academic achievement of Cleveland's children, they simply have no fair chance.

Thank you for your continued support of CMSD and *The Cleveland Plan* reforms that drive our work, and for making education a priority in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Gordon
Chief Executive Officer