
ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN OHIO'S FOUR LARGEST CITIES - 2010

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This document analyzes the four largest Ohio cities' public school districts. The districts included are: Cincinnati Public Schools, Cleveland Municipal Schools¹, Columbus City Schools, and Toledo City Schools. The data used in the analysis is from the March 2010 and March 2009 Ohio Graduation Tests (OGT).

Executive Summary

Once again, Cincinnati Public Schools led the way with the best performance in 2010. Unfortunately, almost eighty percent of all Ohio high schools had weaker performance in 2010 versus 2009. These four districts encountered similar declines in performance. In comparison to the other three large school districts, Cincinnati had the smallest decreases in performance.

What Was Included?

Similar to previous analyses, the primary data fields include: the Performance Index Score (Adjusted), the percentage of those students who successfully passed all five subject portions of the OGT test, and the number of 10th grade students who took the test. The Performance Index Score (Adjusted) field mimics the calculation that the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) uses for its Performance Index Score, and it more accurately reflects the overall performance of a school. The difference between the ODE value and this document's is that this document calculates the number for only the 10th graders who took the tests. It excludes those who took the test in the 11th and 12th grades. Click [here](#) to go to the Appendix to view the calculation.

This analysis includes 71 schools. Schools that had data in the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) Report Card power user database were included, except for special or satellite schools. Examples of the excluded schools include such schools as Options Complex (Cleveland) and Juvenile Detention (Cincinnati). The goal was to include only those schools that were "selectable" rather than a school that may have been assigned to a student for disciplinary or special requirement reasons.

There were a few new schools and those schools, of course, do not have year-to-year comparisons.

Please contact me if other schools should be included. If they materially affect the results, the totals will be recalculated.

Methodology Used

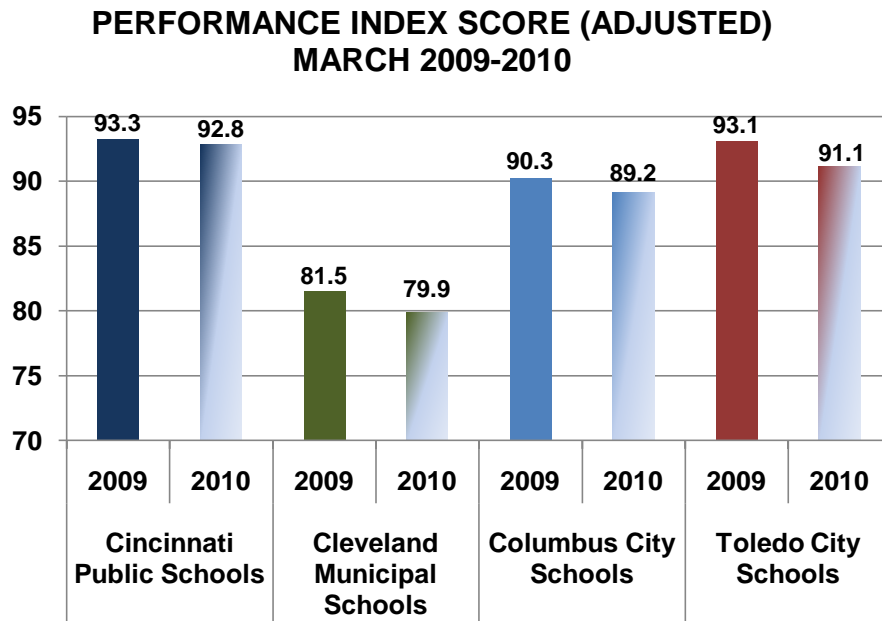
Simple averages can be misleading so a weighted average was used when comparing the school districts with each other. A factor was used to increase the weight of the larger schools in the computation. Below is an example of how the weighted Performance Index Score (Adjusted) was calculated for a school district. Had the schools been equal in size, the weighted average would have equaled the simple average (100.0), rather than the weighted average of 97.5. Since the weaker school had more students, it decreased the weighted average.

SAMPLE HIGH SCHOOLS	# STUDENTS	FACTOR	PIS (ADJUSTED)	CALCULATION
School A	100	(0.25	* 110.0)	27.5
School B	100	(0.25	* 100.0)	25.0
School C	200	(0.50	* 90.0)	45.0
Total	400			97.5
District PIS (Adjusted)				97.5
Simple Average				100.0

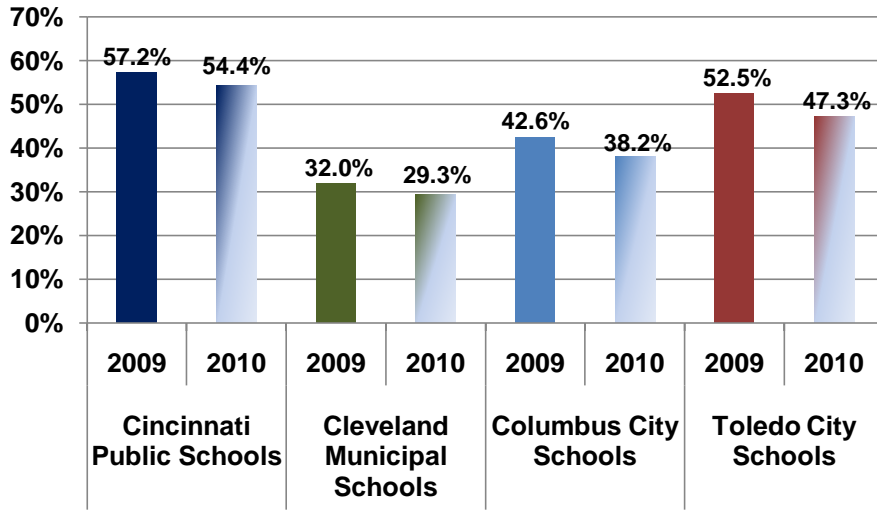
Weighting was used in all of the averages.

District Performance

The top performing district in the state was Cincinnati, followed closely by Toledo, then Columbus and Cleveland. Cincinnati had the highest Performance Index Score (Adjusted) as well as the highest percentage of students who passed all five tests.



**PERCENTAGE PASSING ALL FIVE TESTS
MARCH 2009-2010**



In comparison to 2010, Cincinnati had the smallest performance decline with its Performance Index Score (Adjusted), followed by Columbus City Schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PIS (ADJ) CHANGE - 2010 VS 2009
Cincinnati Public Schools	- 0.5%
Cleveland Municipal Schools	- 2.0%
Columbus City Schools	- 1.2%
Toledo City Schools	- 2.1%

Cincinnati also had the smallest decline in its "Passed All Five Tests" Percentage, followed by the Columbus City Schools.

SCHOOL DISTRICT	PASSED ALL FIVE TESTS 2010 VS 2009
Cincinnati Public Schools	- 5.0%
Cleveland Municipal Schools	- 10.3%
Columbus City Schools	- 8.4%
Toledo City Schools	- 9.8%

While its performance was slightly worse this year, the Cincinnati Public Schools District is still the best large public school district in Ohio. It also widened the distance between itself and the other districts.

Summary of All Schools

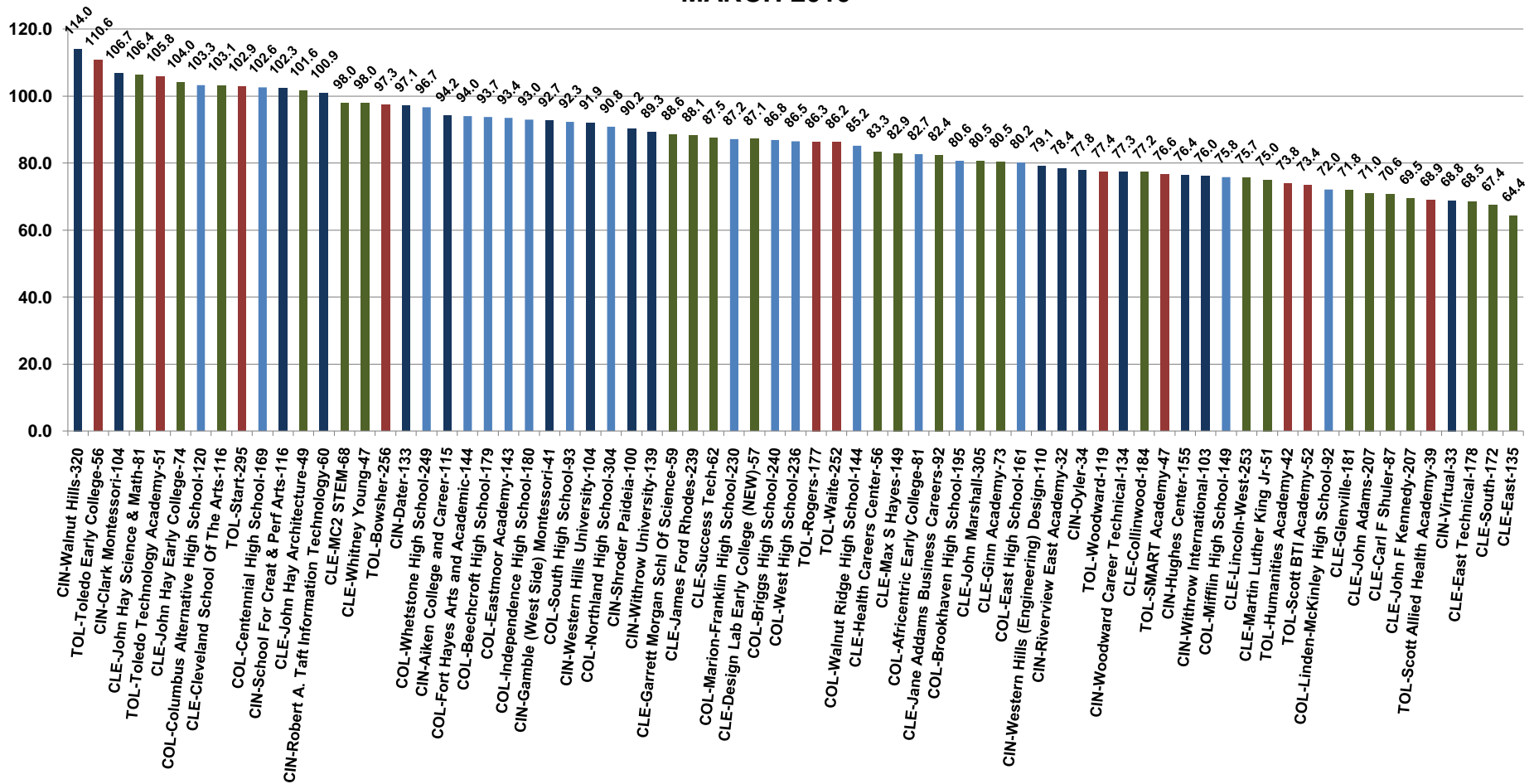
The following five charts provide a detailed view of all of the schools in each district. Please note that the schools are color-coded by district. The colors used for each school district are the same as for the previous charts. For example, Cincinnati is dark blue. Also note that in the charts, the number of tenth grade students who took the test is included with the school name in the horizontal axis.

The schools are in the same order in each graph and they are sorted based on their performance with the Performance Index Score (Adjusted).

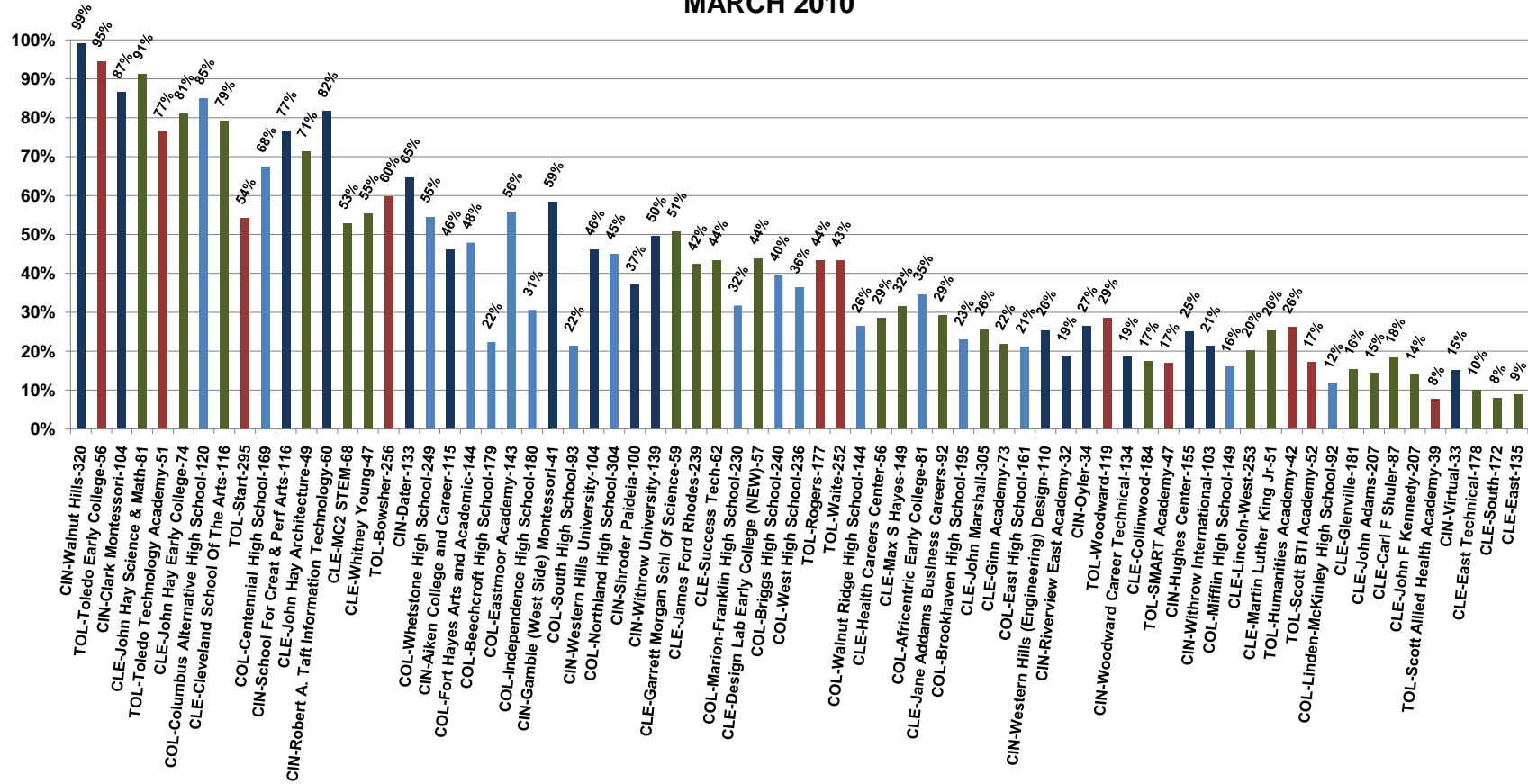
The important take-a-ways from the graphs are:

- Cincinnati's excellent Walnut Hills and the very strong Clark Montessori are great high schools. Young, caring parents, who understand the importance of education, do not have to move out of the Cincinnati Public School District given the high quality of these schools.
- Size does not matter. Great schools can be large or small in size. The best school, Walnut Hills, is also the largest in this study.
- All four districts have great schools and all have weak ones.
- The majority of Columbus Public Schools lag behind the other districts in the percentage of those students who passed all five subject tests. This problem also existed last year.
- Columbus' South and Cincinnati's Oyster both had solid performance gains in 2010. It will be interesting to see if they can add to those gains this year.
- The Cleveland Municipal Schools District has significant problems and the pace of the decline is more substantial than the other districts. Cleveland has seven of the ten worst performers and several of these schools are quite large.
- There has certainly been progress over the last few years but Ohio took a step backward in 2010. This decline has not been adequately reported nor has it been explained. Personally, I think that the number of distractions (i.e. Facebook, YouTube, cell phone text messaging) that students are encountering is completely overwhelming them.

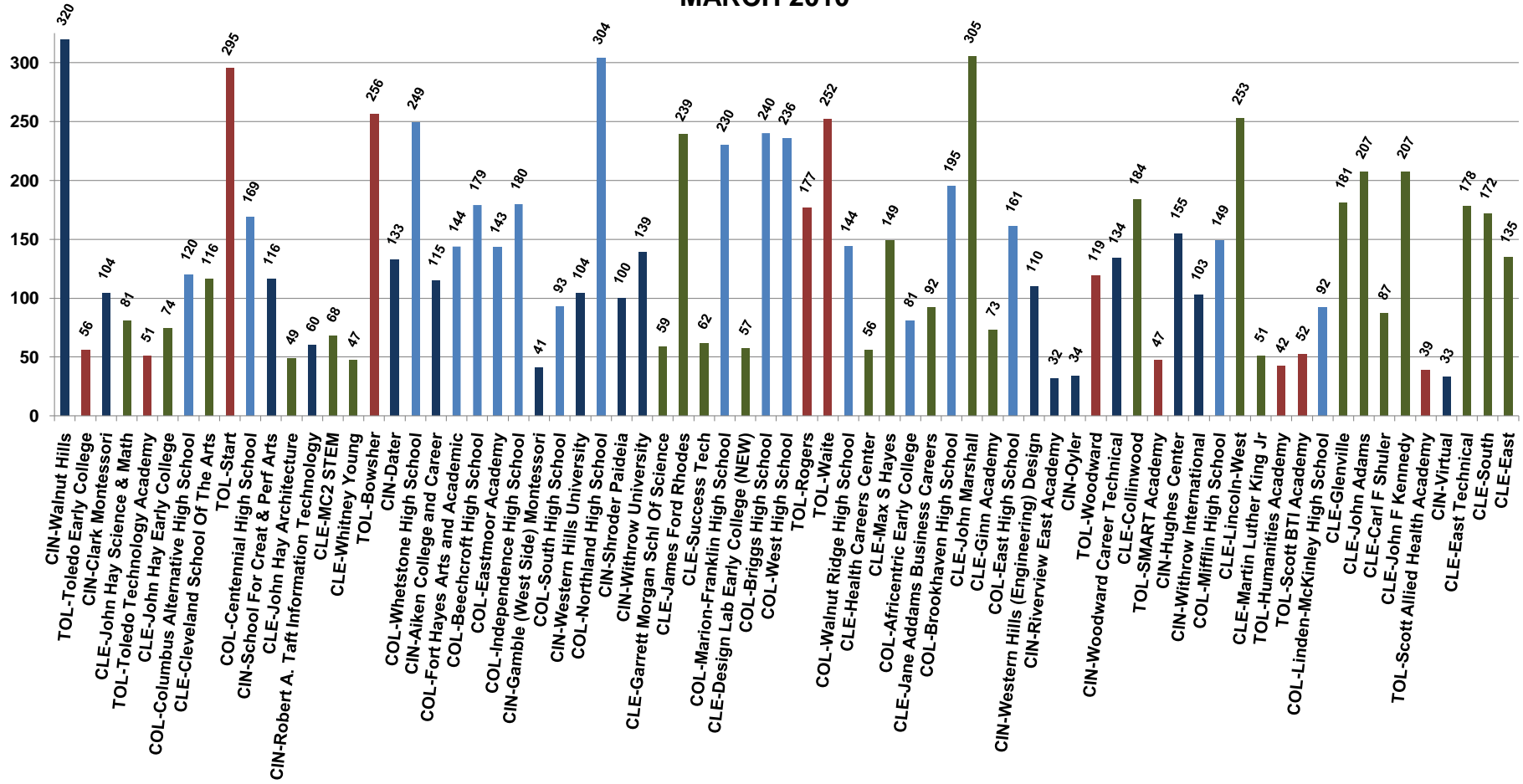
OHIO'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE (ADJ) BY SCHOOL MARCH 2010



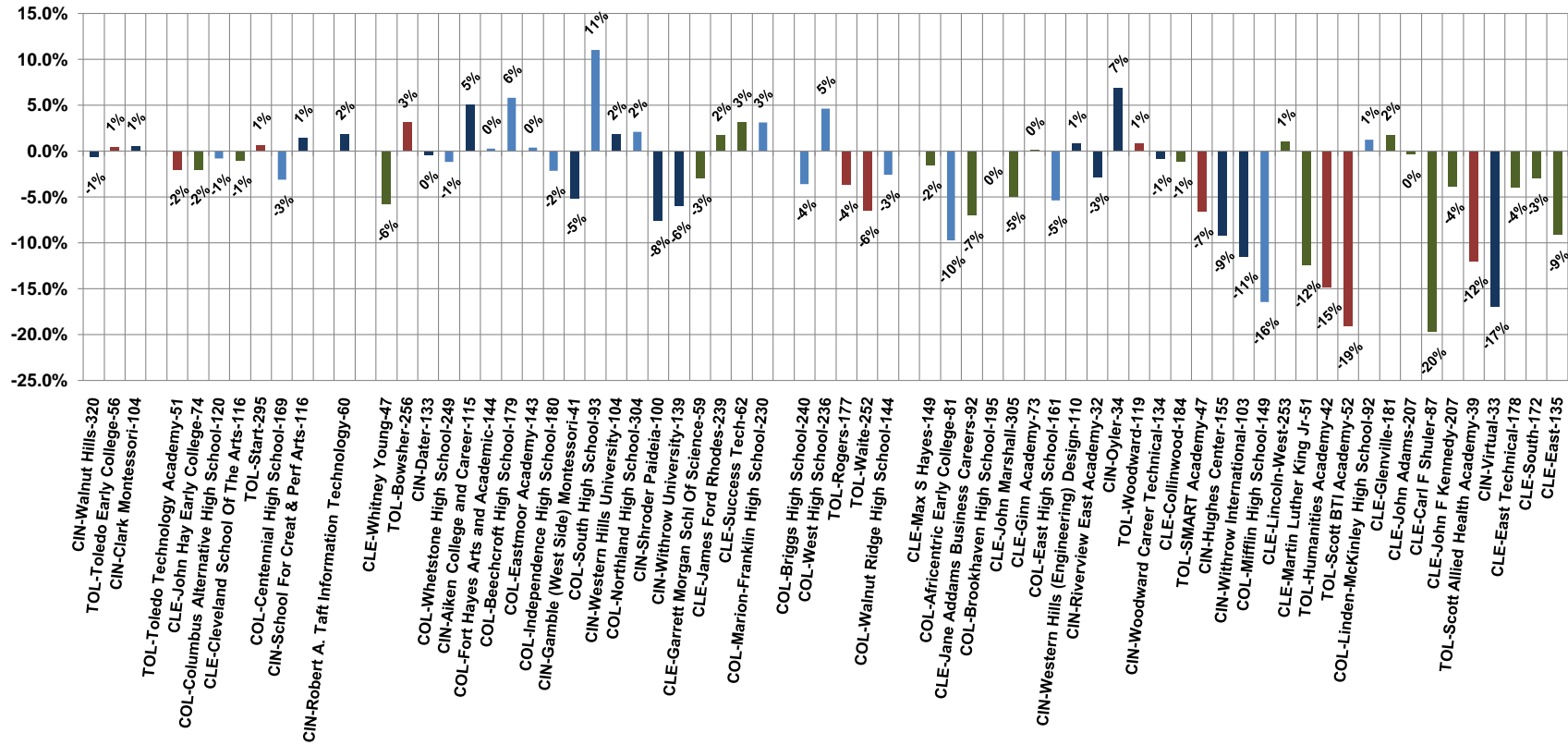
OHIO'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS PERCENTAGE WHO PASSED ALL FIVE TESTS BY SCHOOL MARCH 2010



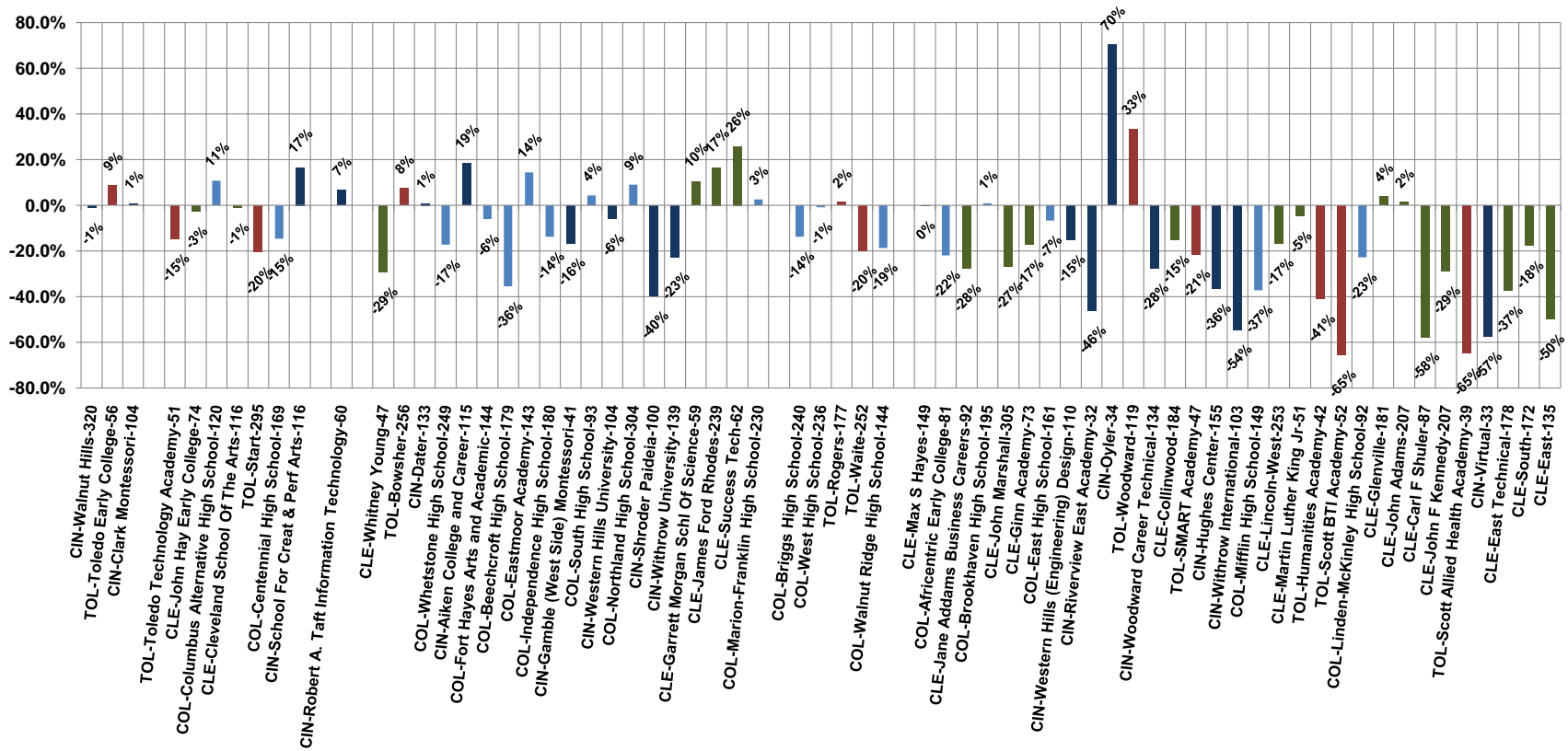
**OHIO'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
NUMBER OF 10TH GRADERS TAKING TEST
BY SCHOOL
MARCH 2010**



**OHIO'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE (ADJ)
PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2010 vs 2009
BY SCHOOL
MARCH 2010**



**OHIO'S LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS
PERCENTAGE WHO PASSED ALL FIVE TESTS
PERCENTAGE CHANGE 2010 vs 2009
BY SCHOOL
MARCH 2010**



Detailed Information for All Schools in Sports Leagues

The Gerber Analytics web site is more robust this year and it includes more information for each school.

This link goes to the information for [Cincinnati's Walnut Hills](#). These reports provide far more detail and they give readers an opportunity to see how high schools are performing in each subject.

Note that academic performance maps for all Ohio high schools are also now available and these maps are interactive. This permits readers to zoom-in to specific areas of the state. Each school is color-coded by its academic performance.

TOP ACADEMIC OHIO HIGH SCHOOL - CHAMPIONS
URSULINE ACADEMY ST. CHARLES PREPARATORY SEVEN HILLS HAWKEN
COLUMBUS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS UNIVERSITY HATHAWAY BROWN

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HOME TOP ACADEMIC SCHOOLS REPORTS BY LEAGUE FIND SCHOOL BY NAME EDUCATION ANALYSIS ABOUT G. A.

Walnut Hills High School League Academic Results

Principal: Jeffrey J. Brokamp
County: Hamilton

[League Report for Walnut Hills in the Fort Ancient Valley Conference - March 2010](#)

Walnut Hills Recognized as a Gerber Analytics' *Top Academic Ohio High School* for the following year(s) (click on year for list): [2010](#) [2009](#) [2008](#) [2007](#)

[Performance Map of Walnut Hills and all schools in southern Ohio.](#) Walnut Hills has a Performance Index Score that is in the **Top 5%** of all Ohio schools based on those tenth graders who took the March 2010 Ohio Graduation Test. (Click on this interactive map to zoom in to a specific area. Time for this interactive map may be significant if you are in a small window.)

Fort Ancient Valley Conference Schools
Amelia

Click for Report

Click to Obtain March 2010 Academic Report for the Fort Ancient Valley Conference

What the Do...
Malcolm GL \$14.58
Daniel Coyl \$14.66
Malcolm GL \$18.47

Top 5% Top 10% Top 25% Top Half Top 20 Lower 1/3

Editorial

Cincinnati is a *great* education city. Walnut Hills is an exceptional school, and I am at a loss to understand why Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo have not created their own versions of Walnut Hills. Cincinnati also has an abundant number of excellent suburban government-funded high schools and an ample number of exceptional customer-paid high schools.

The best high schools in Ohio are identified in my [Top Academic Ohio High Schools](#) document. This document is available via the above link. It was also summarized by the *Cincinnati Enquirer* in November 2009 and 2010.

Background

Please note that I perform these types of analyses to offer another perspective. Prior to retiring, my background was with investing and I enjoy presenting material in ways that provide interested parties with greater insight.

In a small way, I am also hoping that I can move the needle on education by making communities more aware of their school's academic performance by recognizing the best schools. Hopefully through community pride, there will then be more focus and attention paid toward academics.

Please note that I have a "one-of-a-kind" database that is substantial. I am also open to new analysis projects. If you have an education-related analysis project in mind that you think would benefit all Ohio schools, please contact me.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Regards,

D. Scott Gerber

Gerber Analytics, LLC

GerberAnalytics.com



PERFORMANCE INDEX SCORE (ADJUSTED)

The Performance Index Score (Adjusted) is the same as what is done for the Ohio Department of Education's Report Card, except that it is **only** for the **10th grade students** who took the test. It was calculated as follows:

Ada High School

Subject	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Accelerated	Advanced	
Mathematics	9.4%	9.4%	24.5%	20.8%	35.8%	
Reading	3.8%	5.7%	43.4%	35.8%	11.3%	
Science	3.8%	18.9%	26.4%	22.6%	28.3%	
Social Studies	15.1%	9.4%	24.5%	22.6%	28.3%	
Writing	5.7%	5.7%	39.6%	47.2%	1.9%	
Total of Above	37.8%	49.1%	158.4%	149.0%	105.6%	
Average of 5	7.6%	9.8%	31.7%	29.8%	21.1%	
Factor	0.3	0.6	1	1.1	1.2	
Average * Factor	2.3	5.9	31.7	32.8	25.3	Summation 98

It was necessary to create this 10th grade only version of a Performance Index Score for a better "apples to apples" comparison of all schools (both private and public).

[Return to main document.](#)

¹ Also referred to as the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.