



**Department  
of Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Paolo DeMaria, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear Principal Nakita M. Smoot:

Ohio is committed to ensuring each student is challenged, prepared and empowered for his or her future by way of an excellent prekindergarten through grade 12 education. To achieve this, the Ohio Department of Education will partner with your school to provide support based on strengths and areas of opportunity to help you develop and sustain a high-quality school. Under the Department's Every Student Success Act Plan, a continuum of support for schools identified as Priority, Focus, Warning and Independent. Beginning in the fall of 2018, the Department will identify schools every three years.

Your school has been identified as an **Independent** based on Ohio's accountability system. Independent schools are those not identified as Priority, Focus or Warning schools.

Independent schools strive to continuously improve student outcomes by supporting the whole child, ensuring equitable services for all students, and creating a culture and climate that support learning. For additional information about requirements, click [here](#). Continuous improvement includes evidence-based strategies around:

- Curriculum, instruction and assessment;
- Human capital management;
- School climate and student supports;
- Leadership, administration and governance.

The Center for Continuous Improvement will support your school through the Office of Improvement and Innovation with universal supports such as professional development through the Learning Management System, peer-to-peer networks and Ohio's Evidence-based Clearinghouse. For additional information about support or your state support team, click [here](#).

The Department has not yet evaluated schools for Watch designation as required under Ohio Revised Code 3317.40. Watch schools did not show satisfactory achievement and progress for any of four specific subgroups of students (students with disabilities, English learners, gifted and economically disadvantaged) if they also receive state funding earmarked to serve those student groups. More information about school Watch designations can be found [here](#). Additional letters will be going out to districts once Watch-designated schools have been determined. A Watch designation will not affect your building federal identification identified in this letter.

If you have any questions, contact the Office for Improvement and Innovation at [school\\_improvement@education.ohio.gov](mailto:school_improvement@education.ohio.gov).

Regards,

Jo Hannah Ward, Director  
Office for Improvement and Innovation

CC: Superintendent  
SST Director

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