



**Department
of Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Dr. Richard A. Ross, Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 29, 2014

Stephanie Tear, Principal
Paulding Elementary School
405 N Water St
Paulding, OH 45879

Dear Principal Tear:

I am pleased to tell you that Paulding Elementary School has distinguished itself as a school where success is possible for every student. The Ohio Department of Education has named your school both a School of Promise and a High Progress School of Honor based on your 2014 Ohio School Report Card.

Both of these programs look at proficiency in reading and math for all student groups in a school. The Schools of Promise initiative considers the most recent year's reading and math performance, while the Schools of Honor program considers the five most recent years of reading and math performance. For more on selection criteria visit education.ohio.gov.

We all know that student poverty is strongly linked to low student achievement and that schools with a high number of economically disadvantaged pupils have special challenges. Yet Paulding Elementary School is closing the achievement gaps among *all* students.

This kind of achievement takes bold leadership and the commitment of teachers, students and their families. I commend you for that leadership. Also please pass along my thanks to others who contributed to your school's success. Together you are building a wonderful legacy for your community.

I urge you to share the lessons you've learned with other Ohio schools. By learning from each other, all of our schools can better prepare Ohio's girls and boys—from every background—for college, other postsecondary training, jobs and life.

In the coming weeks, you will receive both School of Promise and High Progress School of Honor banners to display in your school building. If you have questions about the banner or the award, please contact Sherry Panizo in our Office of Policy and Research at (614) 387-0546 or sherry.panizo@education.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard A. Ross
Superintendent of Public Instruction