

Fremont City Schools feeling good about report card improvement

[Craig Shoup](#), Fremont News-Messenger Published 1:58 p.m. ET Sept. 12, 2019

Progress made in overall grade and 'gap closing' category

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Jon Detwiler, Fremont City Schools superintendent, said the district is feeling good about improvements made on the district's state report card. *(Photo: File)*

COLUMBUS - While some schools cringed when seeing their district report cards released Thursday by the state, Fremont City Schools were excited to see progress made from 2018.

District superintendent Jon Detwiler said the administration was "high-fiving" each other Thursday as they found out the district improved in several key areas in the state's annual report card.

Fremont City Schools went from a D to a C overall grade, and from a C to a B in gap closing, which measures how well schools are meeting the performance expectations for the most vulnerable students in English language arts, math, graduation and English language proficiency.

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"We're feeling pretty good about this," Detwiler said of the overall improvements. "We still have a long way to go, but we can say with confidence we are getting better."

Detwiler said the improvements can be attributed to a back-to-basics approach by faculty and hard work by students.

"We went back to basics and knowing what kids need to learn with simple objectives," said Detwiler.

In other district grades, FCS received an "A" for graduation rates, mirroring 2018's grade card, while also staying stagnant with a "D" grade in improvement at risk K-3 readers — a measure aligning with the third grade reading guarantee that determines if students in third grade are reading at their grade level.

Although FCS saw improvement, Detwiler said annual report cards remain a point of contention between districts and the state.

"It's still a little convoluted how they calculate these," Detwiler said of the state report card.

Gibsonburg superintendent Tim Murray said he finds it difficult to understand the state's report card.

"How can you get an "A" for graduation rate but then a "D" for prepared for success?" Murray asked.

With changes happening each year to the state's grading, Murray said meeting standards is challenging.

"It's hard to hit a moving target," he said.

Overall, Gibsonburg measured well against other schools in Sandusky County, earning a "C" for overall performance.

But with grades of D and F in progress component and indicators met, respectively, Murray said he knows the district has work to do.

"We are just going to keep plugging away," he said.

Clyde-Green Springs Local Schools earned a "C" grade overall while scoring a B for gap closing and C for the third-grade reading guarantee.

Lakota Local Schools was awarded an overall "B" grade while Woodmore, which shares students from Sandusky and Ottawa counties, earned an overall "C".

Improvement was tracked throughout the state as schools continued closing the gap from previous report cards.

"This year's report cards show continuous improvement is ongoing and that, across Ohio, we are getting better and better at challenging, preparing and empowering each child," Paolo DeMaria, superintendent of public instruction, said in a news release.

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