



TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

Dear Superintendent and Mayor:

Every school day, almost seven thousand students drop out of high school in the United States. Each year, that number adds up to about 1.2 million students who will not graduate from high school with their classmates. Without a high school diploma, we know that these students are much more prone to be unemployed, incarcerated, and on government assistance.

As I try to address this issue, I invite you to nominate a five member team that may be asked to attend a one day summit to focus on the dropout crisis. The Partnership for Continued Learning, which I chair, through a grant from America's Promise Alliance, is convening a one-day summit on November 17, 2008 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. This summit will build on and expand the important work of the Governor's Initiative on Closing the Achievement Gap program, led by CJ Prentiss.

Because we believe that the solution to this problem will involve communities, and because we believe that students can help address the issue, we are requesting that superintendents work with mayors to assemble a team to be drawn from the following list of potential members:

- Teachers
- Parents
- Students
- School administrators
- Government leaders
- Business leaders
- Community leaders
- Community members
- Faith-based organizations

Please register your team by October 31 using the attached directions. Once we have received registrations, we will select up to 60 five-member teams to ensure that a variety of school districts and geographic regions are represented at the summit. Teams with a student member will be given special consideration. We will be asking teams to work with us at the summit to find practical ways of addressing this pressing issue. You will be notified about your participation in the summit by November 4. If your group is not selected there will be information the summit on the Partnership for Continued Learning's website, at www.pcl.ohio.gov.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to tackle the dropout issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted Strickland".

Ted Strickland
Governor