



September 28, 2010

Kim Sharshan, Principal
Joshua Dixon Elementary School
333 North Middle Street
Columbiana, OH 44408

Dear Principal Sharshan:

Congratulations to your school on being recognized as a *School of Promise* for the 2009-2010 school year, based on the results of your most recent state report card! Your students, staff, parents and community should all be proud of this honor as it demonstrates your commitment to closing achievement gaps and helping all students reach higher levels of achievement.

In being named a *School of Promise*, your school is part of an elite group of 161 schools recognized this year for high achievement in reading or mathematics for all groups of students, despite having 40 percent or more of your students coming from low-income backgrounds. This is certainly an accolade worth celebrating!

As a former district superintendent, principal and teacher, I recognize the many challenges associated when working with students from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. I truly believe all students have the potential to succeed and that all students, regardless of their zip code, income, race, gender or disability should receive the highest quality education we can provide. I thank you for your leadership and the commitment of your staff to help all students achieve at high levels. By supporting students and believing in them, you and your staff continue to demonstrate a truly collaborative spirit.

In the coming weeks, you will receive an official *Schools of Promise* banner to display in your school building. If you have any questions about the banner or the award, please contact Sherry Panizo in the ODE Office of Policy and Accountability at (614) 387-0546 or sherry.panizo@ode.state.oh.us.

Please know that I honor the work your staff does every day. Congratulations on this achievement, and best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Deborah Delisle