A successful school district places a high degree of importance on ensuring that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom.

This annual profile helps characterize the overall educational value of the Solon Schools in areas that matter most in our community.
INSPIRING STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

Consistently ranked as one of the top public school systems in Ohio and the nation, the Solon City Schools provides its 4,600 students with a rigorous and comprehensive academic experience, complemented by an extensive array of opportunities in the arts, activities and athletics.

Solon students follow their passions and engage in community service projects assisting those in need and giving back to the community.

Collectively, Solon students succeed at the highest levels in the state in and out of the classroom due to the commitment outlined in the district mission of inspiring all students to achieve personal excellence. As you read this year’s Quality Profile highlighting the 2018 school year, you will see the innovative ways the Solon Schools are inspiring excellence in our students. Look for more in real-time this year as we tag our student achievements with #SolonSuccess.

OUR MISSION

Solon City Schools, a diverse collaborative learning community of families, staff and community members, will ensure all students attain the knowledge and skills to succeed and become contributing, ethical citizens in a global society, through our unwavering commitment to inspire every student to achieve personal excellence.
Schools Quality Profile

Our district’s academic program provides opportunities for all students to reach their full potential.

- Solon students earned the state of Ohio’s #1 school report card for achievement in 2018 for the fourth consecutive year.
- The Solon Schools earned the Overall A Award from the Ohio Department of Education for student achievement results in 2018.
- Solon High School earned the All A Award and the Momentum Award from the Ohio Department of Education for student achievement results in 2018.
- Solon Schools were rated the nation’s #2 school district in 2018 by Niche.com, a community and education ranking resource.
- The Solon Schools have received the #1 education ranking from Cleveland Magazine for the 10th straight year.
- Solon High School is one of only 19 schools in Ohio – and three in Northeast Ohio – to earn a Gold Medal Best rating in the 2018 U.S. News & World Report Best High Schools rankings.
- Solon High School was named to the Washington Post list of the nation’s most rigorous high schools.
- With high student achievement in AP science, math, engineering and computer science classes, Solon High School is the top-ranked Ohio school on the U.S. News Best STEM Schools list, ranking #24 in the nation this year. No other Ohio school is in the top 50 nationally.
- Solon High School had 19 National Merit Finalists, 32 National Merit Commended Scholars and 3 National Hispanic Scholars in 2018. With 54 students honored by National Merit, Solon has among the highest number of students recognized in Ohio and the nation.
*All Solon Schools have earned the U.S. Blue Ribbon School Award at least once. Solon High School has been nominated by the Ohio Department of Education for a 2019 U.S. Blue Ribbon School Award.*

*All Solon Schools received U.S.D.A. Bronze Awards for excellence in school nutrition and physical education.*

*Solon’s robust Advanced Placement program saw 796 students take 1,860 AP exams in 2018. Students earned a score of 3, 4 or 5 on 1,619 of those exams, earning students valuable college credits.*

*More than 95 percent of 2018 Solon graduates are attending some of the nation’s finest colleges and universities. Collectively, 316 May 2018 graduates (75 percent) earned honor or merit roll status and 238 (more than half) received honors diplomas.*

*Solon students’ average ACT scores rank high – Composite: 25.7, English: 25.5, Math: 25.5. Six members of the class of 2016 earned perfect scores on the ACT or SAT.*

*Solon students’ average SAT scores increased in all categories for 2018 – English/Reading/Writing: 647, Math: 666.*


*World languages offered – Spanish, French, Chinese and American Sign Language.*

*Five Solon seniors were named Presidential Scholar candidates.*

A well-rounded education includes a wide variety of opportunities. Participation in performing and visual arts, athletics and competitive academic teams inspires students’ creativity, problem-solving, collaboration and critical thinking skills.

Solon students demonstrate excellence in extra-curricular activities, the arts and athletics:

- Solon bands, orchestras, show choir and other vocal music groups played a large role in helping Solon earn the designation of 2018 Best Community for Music Education. Solon was recognized due to the wide-ranging opportunities in vocal and instrumental music for students of all ages.

- Solon’s acclaimed drama program garnered several prestigious Dazzle Awards from Playhouse Square for the spring production, The Secret Garden For Best Musical, Best Student Orchestra, Best Scenic Design, Best Technical Execution, Best Ensemble/Chorus, Best Supporting Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Actor.

- The Solon High School and Solon Middle School Science Olympiad teams both repeated as national qualifiers. Solon Middle School earned the National Championship. Solon High School captured 4th place.

- Ranked nationally, the SHS Academic Challenge team won both state titles, first capturing the National Academic Quiz Tournament state championship and then the 2016 Ohio Academic Challenge State Tournament.

- The SHS chess team won its 4th consecutive Ohio state chess title. Solon students participate in chess clubs at SHS, SMS, Orchard Middle School, and Lewis, Parkside and Roxbury Elementary Schools.
Three members of this senior class led our Speech & Debate team this year, earning three of the eight spots among Solon qualifiers to nationals in June. Their leadership helped SHS earn the North Coast National Speech and Debate Association Leading Chapter Award, recognizing the top team in the district for the 2017-18 school year.

The Solon Future Problem Solving teams earned top awards at the State Bowl.

The Solon Middle School Power of the Pen team qualified for the state competition.

Solon students conducted world-class research at teaching institutions such University Hospitals, Case Western Reserve University and the Cleveland Clinic through the Lab Link program.

A Solon High School quartet won the Cleveland Chamber Music Society’s Youth Chamber Music Challenge.

The 2018 National Red Ribbon Week theme used in schools across the U.S. was created by a Solon Middle School artist.

Students from all seven schools participated in the 2018 PTA Reflections Art Contest.

Solon High School students published award-winning publications, including Images Literary Magazine, The Courier student newspaper and the Archive yearbook. The Courier earned first place honors in Print Media at the Ohio Scholastic Media Competition. Look for the Courier online this year at theshscourier.com

Music in Motion show choir won two grand championships for their show Move On during the 2018 competition.

In addition to their acclaim with The Secret Garden, Solon drama students staged The Game’s Afoot in the fall and senior-directed One Acts in February as a fundraiser for the Drama Club Scholarship Program.

Solon is known for excellence in music education and performance. String instrument instruction begins in fourth grade and band in fifth grade. The
bands and orchestras retain strong student participation: the Solon High School orchestras have more than 125 members and the band is more than 308 musicians strong.

- The Orchard Middle School Ensemble was again invited to sing the National Anthem prior to a Cleveland Indians game.
- Solon High School and Solon Middle School athletes compete in the newly formed Greater Cleveland Conference and won nine conference titles: football, girls’ and boys’ tennis, boys’ and girls’ cross country, girls’ golf, girls’ basketball, baseball and boys’ track.
- The Solon High School girls’ and boys’ basketball teams both went to the state Final Four, each earning state runner up trophies.
- Seven Comet teams won league championships: girls’ tennis, girls’ golf, girls’ basketball, boys’ basketball, boys’ tennis, boys’ track and boys’ baseball for 2017-18.
- Individual athletes competed at the state level in cross country, swimming and diving, girls’ golf, boys’ tennis, and boys’ and girls’ track.
- Twelve members of the class of 2018 signed NCAA National Letters of Intent and received Division 1 or 2 athletic scholarships.

Solon students are active in community service projects year-round to assist those in need and give back to the community at-large:
- 85 Solon High School students were inducted into National Honor Society in 2018. NHS members are active volunteers at school and in the community, especially as peer tutors at the high school, middle schools and even at the elementary buildings.
- NHS held a fall food drive collecting nearly 950 lbs. of canned goods for Cleveland Food Bank.
- The 2018 district-wide week-long Comets for the Cure campaign raised awareness about breast cancer and more than $15,000 for the Komen Foundation.
- Solon students at all schools raised more than $15,000 for the American Heart Association through Jump Rope for Heart.
- Solon’s chapter of Students’ Against Destructive Decisions promotes good decision making and conducts community service work, including Comets for a Cure Dunk Tank, Boo at the Zoo and Click It or Ticket driving safety program. The high school Key Club held a large-scale fall food drive, collecting more than 3,500 cans of food and money donations for those in need.
- Solon High School raised awareness and more than $3,000 for depression and suicide prevention efforts during Mental Health Awareness Week.
- Solon and Orchard Middle Schools, as well as Lewis, Parkside and Roxbury Elementary Schools, all ran school supply, food, toy or clothing drives. Lewis Elementary School runs a week-long philanthropic Giving Week.
Solon High School’s Diversity Awareness club raised funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, including more than $2,000 during its Crazy Legs fundraiser, earning accolades as the top fundraising school in Northern Ohio.

Solon’s soccer and lacrosse teams held food drives to give back to the community.

In a combined philanthropic/academic endeavor, Solon seniors worked on an integrated research and technology project this year in English class involving the research and promotion of a philanthropic organization of their choice.

The SHS TEDx Club sponsored a local event using the theme “Heading into the Unknown.”

Lewis, Parkside, Roxbury, Orchard Middle and Solon Middle School students all collected Halloween candy to send to area children in need as well as troops overseas.

The Lorax Club leads the recycling effort at the high school raising the school’s “green consciousness.” Students participate in recycling clubs and programs in all schools.

Solon students marked Make a Difference Day with community service projects for the troops overseas and families of ill children among others.

Students held a memorial program and walk out against gun violence in schools following the Parkland school shooting in February 2018.
The Solon City Schools are fiscally responsible to the community while providing superior educational and extra-curricular programming for students.

- The district is the fourth largest employer in the City of Solon.
- Ohio Auditor Dave Yost again awarded Solon Treasurer Tim Pickana and the Solon Schools with the Auditor of State Award for excellent financial record-keeping as well as a clean audit report.
- The Solon and Glenwillow communities overwhelming supported a May 2018 operating levy, with a passage rate of more than 69 percent.
- Fitch Ratings of the Solon Schools – AA+. Key ratings drivers for the district are stable and diverse economy, strong record of voter support, financial flexibility, strong consistent management team, low debt levels and excellent reputation.
- Moody’s Investor Service rating of Solon Schools – Aa1 – based on the educational quality provided, stabilization in enrollment figures and ongoing community support for the Solon Schools.
- The district continued implementing planned security enhancements to the schools with funds from the combined .8 mill permanent improvement and operating levy passed in November 2013 that replaced expiring debt.
- To read more about the district’s finances, view the Popular Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2018. This report makes our district’s finances easier to understand and communicates our financial situation in an open and accountable manner. Read the 2018 PAFR at www.solonschools.org.
The Solon City diverse collaborative learning community of families, staff and community members inspiring students to achieve personal excellence. The backing of four major parent groups in Solon provides this support and critical resources in volunteers and funding for student programming. In addition to their time and efforts, the groups also confer nearly $75,000 in scholarships to graduating Solon High School seniors every year.

**Solon Council of PTAs.**

Active PTAs at each Solon school provide important volunteer support as well as a wide variety of student events, including COSI hands-on programs, assemblies, visiting author programs, career days, fun fests, book fairs and more. The Solon Council of PTAs, which includes all six school units as well as the Solon Schools Preschool and Solon Early Childhood PTA, meets regularly with all district principals, the superintendent and a representative from the Board of Education. PTA newsletters and meeting minutes are posted on the Solon Schools’ web site at [www.solonschools.org](http://www.solonschools.org).

**Academic Boosters.**

The Solon Academic Boosters promote, recognize and reward the academic achievement of Solon students. The Academic Boosters support the district’s academic teams and clubs, sponsor student recognition and award program such as Rising Star, Strive for .5, and provide academic letter and exemplary attendance awards, as well as recognition for National Merit Scholars. The Academic Boosters also sponsored a new summer college application essay writing workshop this summer.

Join and learn more about the Academic Boosters at [www.solonacademicboosters.com](http://www.solonacademicboosters.com)
Music Parents.

The Solon Music Parents provide support to the Solon High School, Solon Middle School and Orchard Middle School instrumental and vocal programs (band and orchestra and choirs) and Starlettes dance team through volunteer time; instrument, music and uniform purchases; and trip subsidies. The Music Parents sponsor events such as the fall Band Bash and Tag Day, winter Pasta Dinner, and guest artist concerts. www.solonmusicparents.org

Athletic Boosters.

The Solon Athletic Boosters support Comets’ sports teams and student athletes, including designing and outfitting a new weight training and fitness room at the high school; equipment for teams such as soccer training goals, hurdles and wrestling mats; ice time and greens fees; scoreboards and stadium signage; trip subsidies for out-of-town competitions; patches and varsity letters; and videotaping and scouting technology. Join the Boosters, volunteer or learn more at www.solonathleticboosters.com

Community residents are welcome to support these groups through memberships and participation at their various fundraising events and programs. Solon senior citizens are admitted free to athletic contests, concerts and drama productions. To find out more about membership and events, visit the groups’ web sites or follow them on social media.

The Solon City Schools works in partnership with the City of Solon and the Village of Glenwillow. These collaborations foster:

- Discussions and solutions on programming, tax incentives and economic development.
- Revenue sharing through cable franchise fees resulting in educational programming and key hands-on experience for students through Solon Education TV. Watch athletic, music and educational programming produced in the Solon City Schools on demand at Solon Education TV.
Corporate connections to our schools continue to expand every year and provide real-world learning opportunities for students, such as:

- The Solon Chamber of Commerce web match tool to pair students with area businesses for senior projects, internships and student jobs.
- Members of the senior class spend the last few weeks of school off site participating in hands-on senior project and internships.
- Many community and business partners open their doors to our special education students to learn and practice their work, employability and soft skills. These partners include: Bed Bath and Beyond (Solon), Old Navy (Solon), Anna Maria of Aurora, The Atrium of Anna Maria, Nick and Smitty’s Deli, Church of the Resurrection Food Pantry, Solon Freeway Lanes, Solon Hardware, Heights Emergency Food Pantry, YouthAbility, Chiromax, PAWSibilities - Humane Society of Greater Akron, Pizza Hut.
- Nestle summer internships, the Kennametal Young Engineers Program and CardPak Earth Day Trees into Cartons-Cartons into Trees continue as engaging examples of design, manufacturing and recycling experiences for our high school engineering application class, and high school and elementary students.
The Solon Schools subscribe to the Safe School Helpline to provide a way for parents and students to anonymously report issues of student safety and well-being. Safe School Helpline 800.418.6423, ext. 359, or TEXT 66746, TIPS.

CASS, or Creating a Safe Social Climate in our Schools Program, places high school mentors with middle school students to help them learn to deal with issues of bullying and relational aggression.

Special programming for students at the high school to share the dangers of drug use, particularly heroin and other opioids.

DARE and DARE Decision Making at Orchard and Solon Middle Schools guide students in developing skills to help them navigate adolescence, peer pressure and making healthy choices. The DARE officer also connects with students in the elementary schools to address safety issues.

The Solon Organized Parent Education Network and Solon Schools’ Parent Mentor program work to support families in understanding the special education process by providing the information needed to become effective partners for their children by developing goals and strategies to maximize the learning process. The shared goal by parents, teachers and administrators is ensuring the academic success for all students. All programming is videotaped and aired via Solon Education TV.

District-wide programming for students and parents on social media and Internet safety.
- Assemblies at every level on bullying, respect and healthy relationships.
- All district schools began programming to promote Growth Mindset.
- Rainbow of Friends program for kindergarten and first graders to provide education on inclusion and diversity, especially regarding students with special needs.
- Cool to Be Kind Week and other programming at the elementary schools help provide early support to students in learning and modeling kindness to others and respect.
- Red Ribbon Week observations at all schools support students in making positive and healthy choices.
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SOLON SCHOOLS’ BELIEFS

• We believe each individual has inherent worth and dignity.

• We believe education empowers people.

• We believe lifelong learning is essential in a changing world.

• We believe educated citizens are essential to America’s future.

• We believe quality public schools are essential to American Democracy.

• We believe quality education is the worth the investment of time, effort and money.

• We believe all students can and will learn.

• We believe all students have the right to reach their potential.

• We believe education is a partnership of the student home, school and community.

• We believe all families have primary responsibility for the growth and development of their children.

• We believe honesty and integrity are essential values throughout our school system and community.

• We believe quality teachers are essential to quality education.

• We believe learning thrives in a safe nurturing and supportive environment.

• We believe positive self-esteem fosters learning and learning promotes self-esteem.

• We believe optimum education occurs when students accept responsibility for their own learning.

• We believe diversity enriches our community.

• We believe our schools serve the entire community.