

*The Future of Mathematics and Science
Education in the Public Schools of Ohio:
Scenarios and Strategies*

A Leadership Paper from the
Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



www.OhioMSC.org

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About This Leadership Paper

- This leadership paper presents four possible future scenarios for Ohio. The members of the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition (OMSC) have identified two critical factors that can shape the future of our state. Those factors are increased access to high quality mathematics and science education for all students and increased development of a globally competitive workforce. The scenarios were designed to create visions of our state in 2025 so that Ohio's citizens might see the impact of decisions made today that affect those two factors.
- The paper provides comparative data that identifies the challenge and need to close achievement gaps and increase educational attainment of groups that have been historically underrepresented within the mathematical and natural sciences in order to tap the competitive potential within all students.
- To reshape Ohio's economy, the Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition describes several critical steps that must be taken to form school, community, and business partnerships that can move our education system toward higher achievement and competitiveness.

Principal Goals for State Level Advocacy Efforts

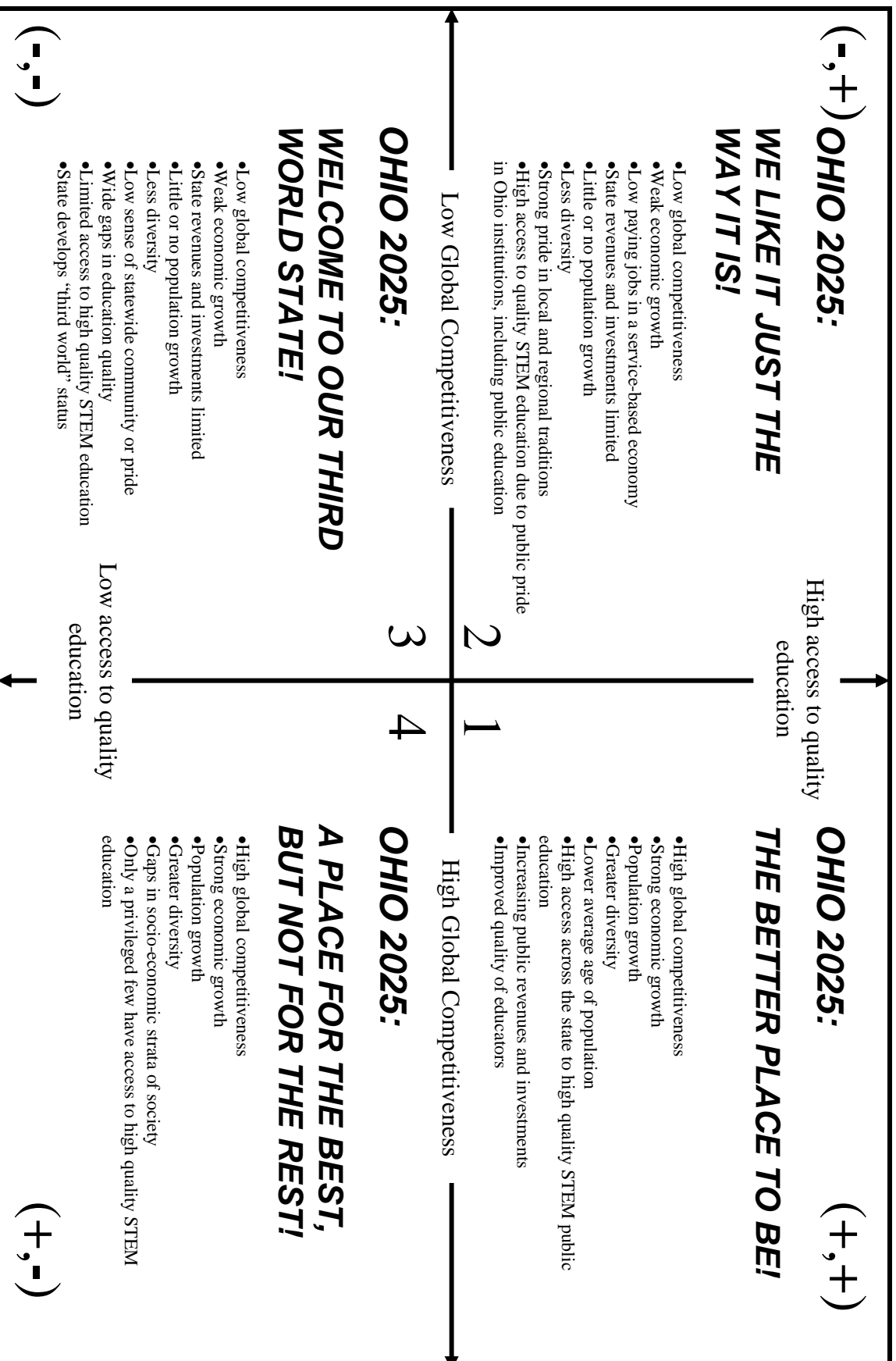
- The Ohio Mathematics and Science Coalition will develop a sustained statewide public awareness campaign, targeted specifically at elementary and middle school students that will inform them, their families, educators and policy makers of the career and life-long implications of doing well, or poorly, in studies of mathematics and science. The varied messages will establish clear connections between the needs of the 21st century workforce and increased preparation in scientific and technical skills and thinking.
- OMSC will continue to work within Ohio as a connecting organization to facilitate critical conversations and actions that align measurable results from the mathematics and science education community with the workforce and economic needs of the business and policy communities.
- Working with other groups within the state, OMSC will develop reports and communication materials that mark the progress being made in improving teacher quality, improving the mathematics and science achievement of all students, improving access to quality mathematics and science education programs at K-12 and college levels, and developing the state's competitive workforce and economic base.
- OMSC will also develop further collaboration and shared planning within the Ohio leadership network so that improvement efforts are aligned and can be leveraged to attract additional financial and people resources that increase the global competitiveness of our schools and businesses.

The Challenge

There is increasing awareness that the quality of public education impacts the economic and competitive growth of every state. Ohio's students are competing against students from other states and countries for the knowledge and innovation jobs of the 21st century. The choices Ohioans make about the mathematics and science education of all students will have long-term impacts on the quality of life and citizenship within our state, as well as to extensive economic benefits or shortcomings.

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Scenarios for Public Education in Ohio 2025



WHICH FUTURE DO YOU WANT?