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Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

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September 17, 2008

Ms. Holly Carroll
Interim Director
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Ms. Carroll:

I am compelled to write to you, as supporters and members of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's Army of Believers, in response to recent coverage in *The Plain Dealer* concerning our data-reporting practices.

I want you to know that CMSD is required to follow the rules for reporting data outlined in the Education Management Information System (EMIS) manual for the state of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Education Office of Assessment Rules Book. *School districts do not have the right to waive state rules.* The rules are as follows:

- All students "in attendance for one full year" shall be included for school and district accountability purposes. EMIS defines those students as "students continuously enrolled in a single building from the end of October Count Week (the first full week of October of each school year) through the spring test administration" of that school year.
- All students "enrolled in the district from the end of October Count Week through the spring test administration, but enrolled in multiple buildings within the district during that time frame," are to be reported as part of the district's accountability report even though they do not meet the standard of "continuously enrolled" at the school building level.

Our school district, like many urban school districts, has a high student mobility rate (34.2% in 2006-07). Ohio defines mobility as the percentage of students who move "between schools within a district and into/out of a school district" during a school year. Because of high student mobility, it is true that some students are not counted as part of the state's accountability system when the state rules outlined above are applied.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District is extremely careful to report data accurately and is recognized by the state of Ohio for accurate data reporting. The state auditors' review of 2006-07 data indicated that CMSD reported student attendance data with 100% accuracy. Upholding our pledge to take responsibility for our shortcomings and credit for our successes, we presented our anticipated 2007-08 data prior to the public release of that data by the state of Ohio. We stand by the accuracy of our 2007-08 test scores.

We are staying focused on our goals, mindful of the significant impact our success can have on the community at large and steadfast in our determination to overcome obstacles that stand in our way. Thank you for your continued support of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District.

Sincerely,

Eugene T.W. Sanders, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



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Holly Carroll
Interim Director
Cleveland Public Library
325 Superior Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

September 22, 2008

Dear Ms. Carroll:

I am a reference librarian in Virginia Beach, Virginia. I am writing to commend the outstanding service provided by Mike Sparrow in Periodicals.

Our customer was looking for an article written in 1950 by Maggie Higgins and concerned the war in North Korea. Our customer was quoted in the article. He didn't know the exact date or even the name of the paper. We determined that Maggie Higgins wrote for the New York Herald Tribune.

I saw on OCLC that Cleveland Public had the New York Herald Tribune on microfilm so I e-mailed the reference department and asked for help. Mike Sparrow responded. Not only did he find the article but he found others as well. My customer is ecstatic. Mike showed diligence, resourcefulness, and professionalism. My sincere thanks to him for his wonderful public service.

Sincerely,

Theresa Dunleavy

Theresa Dunleavy
Reference Librarian II