



# Ohio eSchool Families and Friends Coalition

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **OHIO FAMILIES CELEBRATE ONLINE LEARNING DAY AT THE STATEHOUSE**

*Hundreds gather to Communicate Importance and Success of eSchools in Ohio*

(COLUMBUS, OH) November 14, 2017 -- Nearly 250 students, parents, family members, teachers and administrators from most of Ohio's public online schools, gathered today at the Ohio Statehouse to unite in a celebration for online learning and public eSchools. Travelling from communities across the state, each family came to Central Ohio to share their story about why they made the choice to enroll in an eSchool and how they are benefitting.

Ohio Online Learning Day 2017 was held at the Statehouse Atrium where students took part in learning activities designed by public eSchool teachers and wrote letters and messages to Ohio lawmakers. The students and their family members also attended meetings with legislators and took part in tours of the Statehouse.

One such family attending today's event was the Richardson family from Toledo, Ohio. "I came here today to make sure that my legislators trust parents to choose the best public school option for their children," Tiaunna Richardson said. "Plus it's a great field trip opportunity for my kids to see democracy in action. Not many 9-year-olds can say that they have spoken about their school with their state senator let alone gotten a picture taken with him on the Senate floor."

Online Learning Day was designed so that families could meet and join with other eSchool groups from throughout Ohio to raise awareness, especially with their legislators, about the importance of public online learning options. The event also builds connections between families, schools and the broader community. Schools represented at the event included Ohio Connections Academy, Ohio Virtual Academy, and Insight of Ohio.

More than 60,000 students are enrolled in 18 public eSchools in Ohio, over half of which

are statewide. Students in any geographic location in the state can enroll in the statewide eSchools. eSchools are public charter schools in which students are taught by certified teachers with the state of Ohio and follow the same curriculum standards and requirements set forth by the State of Ohio.

The Ohio eSchool Families and Friends Coalition is a non-profit organization representing students, parents, teachers and others who believe in empowering families to enroll their kids in these innovative public schools. The organization seeks to give parents and stakeholders a voice in the public policy debates over critical educational issues that will impact Ohio's future.

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