

Harding Middle School Wins 2020 Pacesetter Award

School honored for providing quality instruction that prepares students for college and careers

June 30, 2020 — Harding Middle School in Steubenville, Ohio, is the winner of a 2020 Gene Bottoms Pacesetter School Award from the Southern Regional Educational Board. The school will be honored on July 6, 2021, at SREB's Making Schools Work Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, due to the cancellation of the 2020 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Pacesetter School Awards recognize schools that are implementing one of SREB's Making Schools Work school improvement frameworks and are achieving success in meeting bold goals related to increases in student graduation rates, readiness for college and careers, and credential attainment.

Harding Middle School implements [Making Middle Grades Work](#), SREB's school improvement design for the middle grades. The school has a robust career pathway program that prepares students in grades five through eight for career pathways when they enter high school. It has made strides in broadening involvement in the program among underrepresented subgroups of students.

Students explore various career options and get hands-on experience in high-demand STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields. Through collaboration with local businesses, the school ensures there is a direct connection between course work and career opportunities.

In addition, Harding Middle School uses a schoolwide intervention program. Students who need extra help receive added instruction, open communication, counseling and social-emotional support.

On its most recent Ohio School Report Card, Harding Middle School earned a B Overall grade; a B in Achievement, which represents performance on state tests; and an A in Gap Closing, which shows how well schools are meeting performance expectations for the most vulnerable students in English language arts and math.

SREB's [Making Schools Work Conference](#) is held annually and provides educators with opportunities to participate in professional development, network with colleagues from across the country and build school and district leadership capacity.

The Southern Regional Education Board works with states and educators to improve education at every level, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Learn more about SREB at sreb.org.

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