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URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL RECEIVES FIVE-STAR RATING FROM STATE OF OHIO

School's high quality learning and development program recognized by Step Up to Quality

Cleveland, Ohio – Urban Community School (UCS) has received the highest possible rating of five stars from the State of Ohio's Step Up to Quality assessment. Step Up to Quality (SUTQ) is a quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to help improve the quality of early learning and development programs serving children from birth to five years old. SUTQ uses a five-star rating system to recognize and promote learning and development programs that meet quality program standards and exceed licensing health and safety regulations.

To achieve a five-star rating, UCS was scored in several areas, including: demonstrating ongoing assessments and evaluation, providing adequate staffing and structure, providing ample professional development for faculty and staff, and showing collaboration with partnering agencies and the community. Other factors that helped secure the five-star rating are:

- Low Staff/child ratios
- Use of child assessment results to plan activities to best support learning and development
- Sharing assessments and creating goals for children
- Developing plans to support children as they transition into new classrooms
- Working with community organizations or businesses to support children and their families
- Having an active and organized parent volunteer group
- Using input from families and community partners to inform the program

This was Urban's first attempt to be scored by SUTQ, and the school is thrilled to have achieved a five-star rating. "It is really great to have that external acknowledgement and recognition of the quality experience we provide for our youngest children," says Patricia Rossman Skrha, Enrollment Director at Urban Community School. "We were excited to take part in this very extensive, thorough, and objective process to assess our school's success."

As part of the scoring process, there is an unannounced, day-long, on-site visit that includes staff interviews, class observations, and documentation review. UCS excelled in this phase and was commended during the review about how well they handled the process. "The five-star rating from Step Up to Quality is a testament to our staff and faculty whose innovative, dedicated efforts ensured that our scoring process was exceptional," says Sister Maureen, Director at Urban Community school. "The on-site aspect of the scoring was extensive, and everyone from our principals, Lisa De Core and Nora French, to our early childhood staff should take pride in this achievement."

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ABOUT URBAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Urban Community School (UCS) is an independent, non-graded, preschool through 8th level school that provides primarily low-income children from Cleveland's near west side with an individualized, innovative, and challenging education. Founded and sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland, UCS is an ecumenical school in the Catholic tradition. For more information, visit urbancommunityschool.org.