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facsimile transmittal

To: **Andy Rotherham** Fax: 202.456.5581

From: **Terri Gehr** Date: 06/08/00

Re: Eastgate ES Pages: 2

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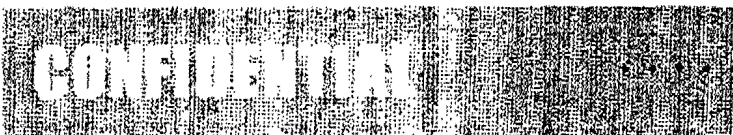
Andy, you may have seen us in the news recently. The President's visit to Eastgate ES in early May prompted questions about Eastgate's increases in its test scores.

There had been allegations of testing improprieties at Eastgate ES which the district had investigated and found unsubstantiated. We had briefed the WH staff that was on the ground for the visit prior to confirming Eastgate ES at the site. It was not a problem for them.

Since then, when questions from the media persisted, Principal Barbara Blake requested an independent investigation, the results of which were released today.

This is good news for Eastgate ES and for our district. The ODE's investigation confirmed Eastgate's good work, and our investigative process.

Thought you might be interested . . .



News Release

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2000

Ohio Department of Education Completes Investigation of Eastgate Elementary School

Columbus, Ohio -- The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) has completed its investigation of allegations of testing improprieties against Eastgate Elementary School in the Columbus Public School District.

Three ODE investigators from the Office of Assessment and Evaluation and the Office of Professional Teacher Conduct interviewed 18 people, including 11 students between May 31 and June 6, 2000, at the request of the Columbus Public Schools. They investigated the validity of allegations concerning a specific volunteer tutor assisting five Eastgate Elementary School fourth graders during the administration of the math fourth-grade proficiency test, administered in the spring of 1999. No new allegations emerged from interviews conducted over the two-week investigation period.

The investigation confirmed that the volunteer tutor at the center of the allegations mentioned was working in Dayton, Ohio, and was not at Eastgate Elementary School on March 18, 1999, the day the fourth-grade math proficiency test was administered.

The Ohio Department of Education investigators found no substantiation of the allegations of testing improprieties at Eastgate Elementary School on the fourth-grade math proficiency test administered in the spring of 1999. Additionally, no new allegations arose during the Department's investigation. The case against Eastgate Elementary School is closed.

All information generated through the two-week investigation conducted by The Ohio Department of Education is confidential pursuant to Section 3319.311 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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For further information, contact Patti Grey, Director of Communications, at the Ohio Department of Education at 614.728.2765.



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